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Kuwait deplores campaign It's Iraq's right

KUWAIT yesterday sided with Iraq against a wide Western campaign launched by Britain and the United States in an attempt to deny Iraq the right to possess chemical weapons and other highly advanced weaponry.

"Kuwait, while deploring this campaign and its exposed intentions, sides with brotherly Iraq in the right to defend its safety and security of its people using all available means," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said in a statement to Kuwait News Agency.

The spokesman added, "Brotherly Iraq, since some time, has been facing a biased media campaign launched by Western aggressive elements supported by well-known Zionist circles."

The campaign, he stressed, "is departing from the principle to deny Iraq the right to possess defensive weapons while seeking to mass a supportive international public opinion."

Britain and the United States accused Iraq of attempting to possess nuclear and atomic bombs. While denying that charge, Iraq has admitted that it possesses chemical weapons with which it can destroy half of Israel.

The Iraqi disclosure has been a disturbing factor to Israel and its backers. Israel, only a day after the disclosure, launched its second satellite orbiting the earth many times a day.

75 perish in 'arson' blaze aboard ferry

50 missing in North Sea disaster; 330 abandon ship

OSLO, April 7. (Agencies): At least 75 people died after fire swept through a Danish ferry in the North Sea early today and 50 others were missing, feared trapped in the vessel.

"Firemen found 75 people dead on board the Scandinavian Star," said Borghild Eldoen, spokeswoman for the Norwegian rescue service.

"But they have not yet searched the whole vessel and 35 to 50 are still missing," The ship's operators said they suspected arson.

About 330 people abandoned the ship after fire broke out during an overnight trip from Norway to Denmark. A dozen other vessels, backed up by helicopters, picked up most of them unharmed.

The 10,513-ton ferry issued a mayday call at 0130 GMT when it was about 30 miles south of the Faerder Lighthouse at the mouth of the Oslo Fjord, saying a fire was raging through the vessel. The captain said he suspected arson.

Many of the dead were burnt or suffocated. The ferry, billowing smoke, was taken under tow to the Swedish port of Lysekil.

NEWSWATCH

Wife kills husband: Hours after she was divorced, a twenty-five-year-old Indian wife living in the Emirate of Fujairah killed her UAE husband and burned his body to hide her crime.

The wife, Ameena Sheikh Masoom, was married for ten years and had a five-year-old son and a three-year-old handicapped daughter from her 35 years-old husband who is an officer in the police force.

She killed her husband, who personally trained her how to handle guns, with the same pistol he uses for his job.

Ratu wins nomination: Ion Ratu, who returned to his native Romania after 50 years of exile in Britain following the December revolution, easily won nomination on Friday as a candidate in the race for president.

Ratu, 72, was nominated as the candidate for the National Peasants' Party, one of two leading pre-World War II parties that have strongly re-emerged since the revolt that ended 45 years of communist rule. (AP)

Sentenced to death: A Filipino was sentenced to death by a high court in East Malaysia state after he was found guilty of trafficking in 1,558.28 grammes of cannabis about six years ago.

Asiddin Ting, 33, was calm when the sentence was interpreted to him by the court assistant registrar Joseph A bin Lianjun.

Kuwait denies: Kuwaiti Minister of Water and Electricity Dr. Homood Al-Rqobah denied on Saturday that there were any studies or plans for privatisation of electricity in Kuwait.

In an exclusive interview with a Kuwaiti daily, Al Rqobah said water and electricity in Kuwait are vital consumer products and the ministry is not contemplating raising their prices.

The minister told Al-Sayassah newspaper he doesn't think the private sector would afford to buy electric power shares because of the billions it would cost, since the government already subsidizes this service with an annual KD300 million. (KUNA)

Chinese rocket takes off: A Chinese rocket lit up the night sky and thundered skyward on Saturday with a US-made satellite abroad after a two-hour delay, entering China in the lucrative international space-trucking business with its first commercial launch. (UPI)

Sniper wounds seven: A gunman opened fire on pedestrians from a high-rise apartment on the Gold Coast resort strip in Brisbane, wounding seven people, police said.

The gunman was subdued by police, who wounded him in the arm, said spokesman constable David Austin. He was undergoing surgery for a bullet wound and was expected to be charged later, Austin said.

Israelis talk to me, says Arafat

ROME, April 7. (Reuters): Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat said yesterday he had high-level secret contacts with the Israeli government.

"Yes, they exist," he told Italian state radio on being asked if top-level contacts had taken place.

"For example (former Defence Minister) Yitzhak Rabin sent an emissary with a message for me and even (Prime Minister Yitzhak) Shamir has done the same thing."

Asked what type of messages he had received, Arafat said: "Different types ... regarding the intifada."

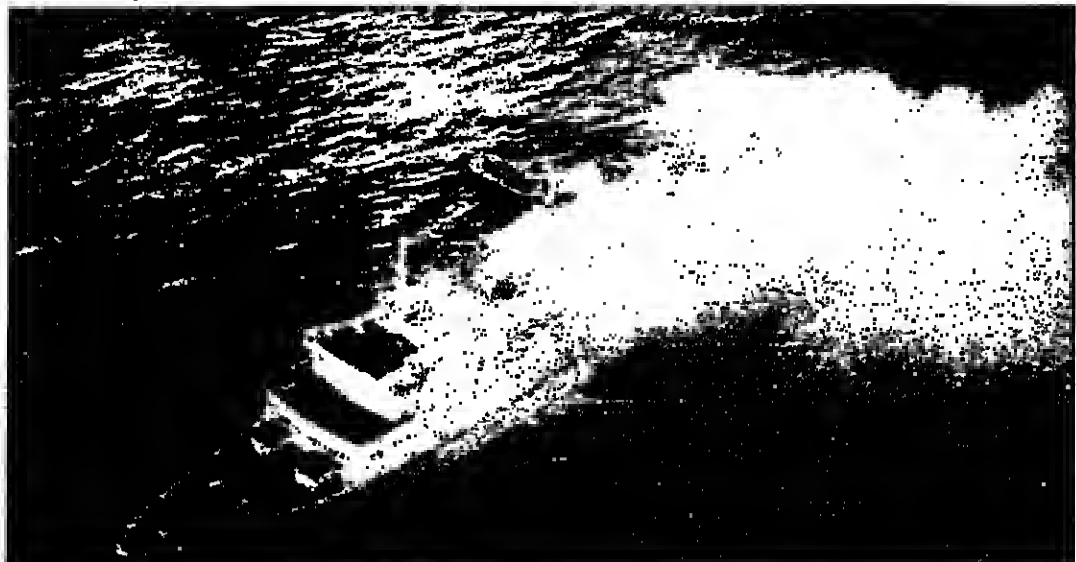
Arafat, who had just finished a two-day visit to Italy, said the messages also concerned "some aspects of peace initiatives." But he gave no details.

Asked if it was strange that a declared enemy had sent him messages, Arafat replied: "With whom are they going to make peace? With ghosts? No. With me."

"They are like ostriches who bury their heads in the sand and refuse to confront reality. They do not want to march in the direction of history. Some of them think they can block the sun with their finger."



A passenger injured in the Scandinavian Star is being treated by rescue workers. (Reuters wirephoto)



The burning ferry, Scandinavian Star shown in the North Sea with smoke billowing from it.

Norwegian NRK public television showed aerial pictures of the white-hulled ship ringed by rescue vessels in calm waters under a blue sky. A tug was trying to douse the flames.

An early estimate of 500 passengers and crew aboard the Scandinavian Star was revised to 450, but Eldoen said there was no firm number.

Most of the passengers were Norwegians taking an early Easter break to Denmark, where prices for most goods are cheaper than in Norway.

The Norwegian news agency NTB reported that the ferry's Norwegian captain, Hugo Larsen, suspected arson as the cause of the blaze. It said fire broke out almost simultaneously in two different parts of the vessel.

"Many on board didn't understand what was going on," a man who survived told NRK public radio.

"Many had been drinking and we didn't get any information over the loudspeakers before they ordered us to the lifeboats," he said. "I smelt smoke, so I got up and came out," a woman who survived said. "There was no organised leadership on deck ... the lifeboats were full of people," she said, adding that she had heard no fire alarm.

"The fire aboard the Scandinavian Star is a catastrophe which affects the whole nation," Norway's conservative Prime Minister Jan Syse said in a statement. He said it was one of the worst disasters in Norwegian waters.

In Sweden, Lars Kalland, a liaison officer with the Gothenburg rescue centre, said probably no one was left alive on the ferry. He added that a Soviet ship helped in the rescue, carrying 44 survivors to Lysekil early this morning. The Scandinavian Star was expected to arrive at the port this evening.

North Sea ferries have been involved in several accidents in recent years.

Last September, Danish police blamed an arson attack for a fire that swept another Danish North Sea ferry, killing two Swedish passengers. The ferry was sailing to Harwich in England from Gothenburg in southern Sweden.

Norwegian reports said there were 495 people on board, but Swedish rescuers said the number of passengers and crew was uncertain.

Norwegian rescuers said about 340 passengers and crew were taken to safety by other ships and a helicopter. At least 20 survivors were reported injured.

Some on board the car and passenger ferry jumped into the sea to escape smoke and flames. People were rescued by other vessels and helicopters.

Norwegian rescue vessel captain Aage Danielsen said the missing passengers were believed still on the ferry that continued to burn more than eight hours after fire broke out.

Danielsen said about 200 passengers were Norwegians and the rest were Danes. More than 80 cars were reported on the roll-on, roll-off ferry, which has large vehicle doors at each end.

Dead were found in cabins and on the car deck, where many people were apparently sleeping on the overnight trip from Norway to Denmark.

Capsize in Burma

At least 14 people, mostly women and children, were drowned, and some 150 are feared dead after a ferry boat capsized in southern Burma, that nation's state radio reported today.

The official Rangoon Radio said the double-decker ferry boat Sein San Pya overturned in gale-force winds last afternoon with more than 200 people aboard.

Revolt claims fifty in Nepal

KATHMANDU, April 7. (Reuters): Nepalese authorities clamped a curfew on Kathmandu today after security forces shot dead up to 50 people to halt a protest march on the royal palace, but fresh signs of revolt were reported outside the capital.

People in Kathmandu, where 100,000 pro-democracy demonstrators were dispersed by gunfire yesterday, seemed to be obeying the curfew orders repeated every half-hour on the Himalayan kingdom's state-run radio.

But 15,000 people demonstrated in nearby Bhaktapur, witnesses said. Later people living in the area reported seeing ambulances heading from Bhaktapur towards Kathmandu.

Radio Nepal said six people had died and 107 were injured when police opened fire to halt yesterday's demonstrations as they approached the palace of King Birendra, traditionally revered as a descendant of the Hindu god Vishnu.

Witnesses and hospital doctors said 50 people died.

The radio said an indefinite curfew was in force within a 10-km (six-mile) radius of central Kathmandu, including the town of Patan where thousands roamed the streets last week demanding multi-party democracy.

The radio said anyone breaking the curfew would be jailed for a month. Any curfew-breaker deemed to be resisting arrest would be shot dead, the Nepali-language warning said.

It said a two-hour break in the curfew promised earlier had been cancelled. The curfew would stay in force until at least tomorrow morning.

Freeed

Today several leading government opponents were freed from detention. They included human rights leader Devendra Raj Pandey and the acting general secretary of the Nepali Congress Party, Yog Prasad Upadhyay.

The Nepali Congress joined forces with seven small communist factions in February to launch a campaign for open political activity. Political parties have been banned since 1960.

Police broke up demonstrations, with an official death toll of 12, and arrested hundreds of people in the first weeks of the campaign. The crackdown fuelled the past week's mass protest.

Witnesses said Patan, an historic town which residents had turned into a no-go area for police, had been taken over by the army last night.

The troops met little resistance, witnesses said. Militant residents, who had earlier barricaded off police had gone to Kathmandu to demonstrate and not returned.

Nepali Congress sources said troops shot dead two curfew-breakers and a third person watching them from a balcony in Patan overnight but there was no independent confirmation of this.

Radio Nepal's English-language news broadcasts warned tourists of the curfew.

The British High Commission said Briton Richard Williams died and another Briton, Andrew Reid, was injured in yesterday's firing. Hospital sources said a Dutchman, Diek Boogard, was also injured.

The sources said Kathmandu airport was effectively closed today because the curfew had kept Nepalese staff away.

Kidnappers set deadline

Curfew in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India, April 7. (Reuters): Security forces raided houses today looking for Kashmiri militants who threatened to kill three kidnapped people on Monday afternoon if Indian authorities did not release three jailed militants by then.

Authorities today reimposed a 24-hour curfew on the Kashmir valley, where Muslim militants are revolting against Indian rule.

Indian Blackout commands have been put on alert for a possible mission to free a university professor, a business executive and his private secretary kidnapped by militants on Friday, a Srinagar police official said.

Musheer-ul-Haq, vice chancellor of Kashmir university, was hailed out of his car at a point in Srinagar, summer capital of India's Jammu and Kashmir state and hotbed of the anti-India insurgency.

About the same time in another part of the city C.L.M. Khela, general manager of the Hindustan Machine Tools factory in Srinagar, and his private secretary Abdul Gani, were also abducted.

The commanders were flown in several weeks ago to stand by for a hospital rescue operation, a senior police official said.

"That occasion has come and we must ask them to strike," the police

official said, adding the commandos would only act when the militants' hideout was found.

State intelligence chief, Amar Kapoor, told Reuters: "We do not know who has kidnapped them as nobody has come forward to negotiate. Somebody has telephoned newspaper offices but how can you say they are genuine," he said.

The government was trying to open negotiations with the militants through the father of one of the three jailed militants, he said.

Security forces have raided several hundred houses in Srinagar, where the militants are believed to be hiding out with their captives, a police spokesman said.

Witnesses said residents of the old city area of Srinagar were trying to escape the dragnet by moving into mosques, which were broadcasting anti-India slogans on loudspeakers.

Bangladesh's main Islamic fundamentalist party yesterday proclaimed support for Muslim militants in Indian-ruled Kashmir.

"We declare our complete solidarity with the oppressed Kashmiri people seeking independence through struggle and wish them all success," the Jamaat-e-Islami Party, Bangladesh's third largest opposition party, said in a statement.

Two days earlier a member of the student branch of the MQM was gunned down outside his college room, heightening tensions on the campuses, which have become virtual camps.

The authorities ordered all colleges closed indefinitely beginning today.

Karachi, with a population of 8 million, has become a

Warheads

Arafat said today Israel has between 220-250 nuclear warheads and was stealing more Arab land for new Jewish emigrants.

"The situation is becoming more and more dangerous. Each Arab capital can be hit by 10 Israeli warheads," he told a meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) in Rabat.

"The Islamic and Arab nation cannot remain with its arms crossed ... we have to move from words to action," he said, adding Israel had clear designs on parts of Lebanon and Jordan.

Arafat was speaking at the opening session of the OIC's Jerusalem Committee, convened by chairman King Hassan II of Morocco in co-ordinate a strategy against increased Soviet emigration to Israel and its effect on Jerusalem.

Arafat said Israel was planning to establish an extra three million Jews from the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe and Ethiopia in the region between now and the end of the century, more than doubling the current population of the state of Israel.

"We are faced with a dangerous challenge ... Israel aims to occupy more Arab territories," he said.

The Palestinian leader said Fataha Jews from Ethiopia had already been located in a buffer zone in the south of Lebanon maintained by Israel.

(See Page 9)

Influx raises fears of threat to Egypt

Al Ahram editor's alarm

CAIRO, April 7. (AP): A leading editor yesterday escalated Egypt's campaign against mass movement to Israel by Soviet Jews, writing that the Jewish state may try to accommodate them by seizing land from Egypt and its other Arab neighbours.

By including Egypt, Ibrahim Nafai of the government-owned Al Ahram implied a possible threat to Israel's 1979 peace treaty with Egypt, its only one with an Arab country.

For months, President Hosni Mubarak and other Egyptian officials have condemned the influx of thousands of Soviet Jews into Israel. Commentators in state-owned and opposition media have been even more virulent.

But until the comments by Nafai, a Mubarak confidant who customarily reflects government thinking, the criticism focused on threat to the West Bank and Gaza, Arab lands occupied by Israel since 1967.

In his weekly front-page column, Nafai coupled his expression of con-

cern with criticism of both the United States and the Soviet Union.

Under the title "major conspiracy," Nafai wrote:

"What is the secret behind this terrible Israeli octopus? What is the secret of this octopus that prompts the world's two superpowers to compete and excel in the service of Israeli aims?"

An accompanying cartoon depicted Uncle Sam tooting on a flute in the shape of a dollar sign and emitting dollar-sign notes. A cobra with a Star of David as its hood slithered from a jar labelled "Soviet Union."

Nafai wrote that the immigration problem is more massive. He quoted a "senior Soviet official," whom he did not identify, as saying that about 4 million Soviet citizens will emigrate this year.

"This is another Jewish exodus reminiscent of the one from Europe to Palestine after World War II. ... This time it is aimed at the West Bank and Gaza," Nafai wrote.

Gaza violence injures 19 Palestinians

GAZA, April 7. (Reuters): Demonstrators raised the Palestinian flag in the centre of Gaza City today and blocked roads with rubble and blazing tyres during protests over the killing of two Arabs and closure of a mosque earlier in the week.

Hospitals and Palestinian sources reported at least 19 Palestinians injured in the city and other parts of the occupied Gaza Strip — three of them shot by Israeli troops.

Witnesses said troops smashed down the doors of Gaza's Abil Hospital to search the building for fugitive stone-throwers.

Staff at the hospital said they treated 16 people, including women and old men, beaten by troops in the city centre.

In nearby Jabalya refugee camp a 14-year-old boy was shot in the head and rushed to an Israeli hospital, Palestinians said.

A man was wounded in Rafah where residents defied an Army curfew to protest at Thursday's fatal shooting by soldiers of a local man.

At least one demonstrator was wounded in a clash with troops in Khan Younis.

14 killed and 45 injured in Karachi shooting spree; 30 party members detained

KARACHI, April 7. (AP): An overnight shooting spree by gunmen on motorbikes left 14 people dead and 45 others wounded, authorities said today. Police arrested 30 people from rival political parties.

The assassinations began racing through Karachi's central district after sunset yesterday firing indiscriminately at bystanders, police said. They said the shooting continued until sunrise.

After a wild car chase through the congested streets of Pakistan's largest city, police arrested four members of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party, including the president of its student wing.

Another 11 members of the ruling party, along with 15

members of a rival Indian immigrant party, called the Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), were arrested in a series of predawn raids, said police.

Javed Akhtar, commissioner of Karachi, said police recovered automatic rifles and ammunition from both groups.

Two days earlier a member of the student branch of the MQM was gunned down outside his college room, heightening tensions on the campuses, which have become virtual camps.

battleground, with political parties and rival ethnic groups fighting pitched battles in its cramped alleyways. Kidnappings and torture are commonplace.

According to unofficial statistics by relief organisations and police, more than 60 people have been gunned down in the last month in Karachi, the capital of the turbulent Sind province, the country's economic and industrial centre and its only major port.

Benazir's left-of-centre party and the right-wing MQM are the main combatants in the political battle. A one-time ally of Benazir's, the MQM withdrew its support last November and committed its 14 National Assembly seats to her hostile opposition.

The MQM's switch prompted her opposition to call a non-confidence vote last Nov 2, which she narrowly survived.

Benazir's party rules the 237-seat National Assembly and dominates the Sind provincial assembly.

Since 1985 more than 1,000 people have been killed in ethnic violence in Karachi and Hyderabad, about 100 miles (160 kilometres) to the north.

The main combatants in the ethnic battle are Sind nationalists, who want greater autonomy or independence for the southern province and the MQM, who want to be recognised as a fifth nationality.

Ramadan timings

Imsak: 3.59 Ifar: 6.11

INTERNATIONAL

Imelda tries to discredit witness

NEW YORK, April 7. (Reuters): Imelda Marcos's lawyer yesterday tried to portray a former Philippine bank branch manager who testified that Marcos bled the institution of millions of dollars as a crook who was trying to save his own skin.

Gerry Spence, Marcos's lead lawyer, tried to show that Oscar Carino, former manager of the New York office of the Philippine National Bank, skimmed money from the government bank and agreed to testify against Marcos to escape prosecution both in the United States and the Philippines.

On Thursday Carino testified that Marcos took so much money from the branch that it was almost shut by New York state regulators for insufficient funds.

Prosecutors allege that the Marcoses transferred some of the stolen money to the New York branch of the Philippine National Bank and that Mrs Marcos used the branch as her "personal piggy bank."

Carino testified that the former First Lady took millions of dollars from the New York branch's operating account at Chase Manhattan Bank. He said Mrs Marcos visited New York three to four times a year between 1980 and 1984 and each time took out between \$400,000 and \$500,000.

However, Carino admitted on the stand that he took interest from accounts held by the Philippine National Bank at other New York banks.

He also said that in return for his testimony against Marcos he would not be prosecuted for \$123,000 in back taxes and interest he owed the Internal Revenue Service for failing to report the funds he had taken. But he has agreed to pay the US tax agency.

Thursday, Carino, described how Mrs Marcos ordered \$100,000 bundles of cash delivered to her several times on each of her visits to New York.

"We would deliver cash wherever in New York she would be staying," said Carino, 60.

Yesterday, Carino denied any wrongdoing in his dealings with Marcos and his wife.

House furore over telephone bugging

Singh orders CBI to probe charges

By Thomas Abraham
Arab Times correspondent

NEW DELHI, April 7: The Indian government was put on the defensive after allegations made by a senior Janata Dal leader that his telephone and those of 27 other politicians were being tapped by the government.

Chandra Shekhar is reported to have told the Bombay-based

magazine "The Illustrated Weekly of India" in an interview that the intelligence agencies had also bugged his house and those other leaders.

The Congress-led opposition, ever on the lookout for an opportunity to catch the government on the wrong foot, raised a furore in the Lok Sabha immediately after question hour, demanding a statement on the allegations by Prime Minister V.P. Singh, who was not present in the house then.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Babul Islam Day: Glowing tributes were paid throughout Pakistan today to the 8th century Arab General Muhammad Bin Qasim who brought Islam to the Indian sub-continent with the conquest of the Hindu kingdom of Raja Dahir.

The occasion was the 'Babul Islam Day' which was celebrated today across Pakistan to mark the advent of Islam in India.

Various social, political, socio-political, literary and religious organisations organised seminars, symposia and special meetings at which learned speakers narrated the capture of Sindh kingdom of Hindu ruler Dahir in 93 AD by the Muslim Army led by young Arab commander Muhammad Bin Qasim after fierce fight with Dahir's big and powerful army. (Kuna)

Indian medical colleges: The Indian government has stopped all foreign students from entering private medical colleges with immediate effect, it was reported in Kuala Lumpur today.

This leaves Malaysians with just the two places in government-owned Indian medical colleges reserved for them under two schemes.

The report quoted first secretary of the Indian High Commission in Malaysia, C.S. Kuppasamy as saying the decision was made last month. (Kuna)

Singh opposes Carbide refund: The government of Prime Minister V.P. Singh opposes a refund of the \$470 million paid by US based Union Carbide if the accord on compensation in the 1984 Bhopal gas leak disaster is overturned. Attorney General Soli Sorabjee said Friday.

Sorabjee made the statement on the second day of hearings by special supreme court panel reviewing petitions seeking to annul the Feb 14, 1989, agreement between Union Carbide and the administration of Singh's predecessor, Rajiv Gandhi. (UPI)

Sectarian assassinated: A prominent Shia religious scholar of Sialkot City in the Punjab was today assassinated by unidentified gunmen.

According to an official report, received in Islamabad this evening, Allama Sajjad Hussain Khan (67) was gunned down by two assailants riding a scooter as he was on his way to Imam Bargah (Shia Mosque) on college road to lead 'fajr' (dawn) prayers.

The scholar was riding a motorcycle when he was attacked. He was rushed to hospital but he expired on the way. (Kuna)

Dhaka tribal refugees back home: A senior army commander said nearly two-thirds of the tribespeople who fled Chittagong Hill Tracts in southeast Bangladesh following a separatist tribal insurgency have returned home from refugee camps in India.



Child employee

As smiling nine-year-old Egyptian boy carries a bunch of shovels at his employer's shop at Cairo's Khan Khalili souk on Friday. Children are often employed in various jobs in Egypt. (Reuters wirephoto)

"Of about 29,000 tribals who had gone to the Indian state of Tripura over the years at least 18,862 have returned." Major-General Abdus Salam, regional military commander, said.

The official BSS news agency quoted him on Saturday as saying that of 7,000 tribal guerrillas, known as Shanti Bahini (peace force), nearly 2,300 had surrendered to Bangladesh authorities.

The Shantis, made up mostly of Chakma tribesmen, took up arms in 1973 after the government refused to grant autonomy to the 5,500 square mile (14,200 sq km) hill tracts, the tribal homeland bordering India and Burma. (Reuters)

US panel to visit East Asia: Seven members of a House Armed Services subcommittee will travel to East Asia to consider alternatives to US military bases in the Philippines, the panel said.

The delegation from the subcommittee on military installations and facilities leaves Saturday for Hawaii, Guam, Thailand and Indonesia for a 10-day trip.

The opposition managed to stall all proceedings in the Lok Sabha for well over twenty minutes, arguing that it was a serious matter if the allegations were true. Parliamentary affairs Minister P. Upendra sought to say something on the issue but the Congress members shouted him down, saying they wanted a statement from the prime minister and none else.

With unconcealed glee, the opposition recalled that Janata Dal leader Ramkrishna Hegde had to resign as Karnataka chief minister some time ago after facing similar allegations.

When speaker Rabi Ray found that the opposition was not going to relent in their demand, he adjourned the house for about two and a half hours. Later, opposition leaders met Upendra and it was agreed that the government would make a statement on the subject when the house reassembled.

In his statement, Upendra stoutly denied all the allegations attributed to Chandra Shekhar. However, the prime minister had ordered an inquiry by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) into the charges, he disclosed. Upendra said the inquiry would also cover such activities undertaken by previous governments.

"The telephonic communications of Chandra Shekhar or any other political leader are not being intercepted. Neither are the premises of Chandra Shekhar or any other political leader being bugged," Upendra said.

The minister, however, pointed out that under special circumstances, telephone interceptions had been conducted under the provisions of the Indian Telegraph Act. There are safeguards to ensure that these powers are not misused, he said.

Upendra said the government fully respected the citizens' right to privacy and attached the utmost importance to the privileges of members of Parliament.

The Congress was not satisfied by the statement and demanded an inquiry by a committee of the Lok Sabha. They said they would raise the issue again in Parliament on Monday.

Lok Sabha Thursday voted to extend president's rule in the troubled state of Punjab by another six months as continued violence there exercised members of the house for the better part of the past week.

A constitution amendment bill seeking to extend central rule in the state was adopted with as many as 399 members voting for it and only three against. The bill had received support from all the mainline parties but a similar measure had fallen through last Friday for want of the requisite majority, causing great embarrassment to the government.

In a rare spirit of accommodation the ruling National Front and the opposition reached an agreement to end the stalemate and clear the decks for introduction of a fresh bill on Wednesday, when the house met again after a long weekend.

The computer is destined for the Institute of Science of Bangalore, which conducts biotechnological and other research, said Indian officials.

Gary Milhollin, director of the Wisconsin Project on nuclear arms control, said the institute also studies stress on rocket bodies.

Milhollin, whose outfit tracks the spread of nuclear weapons to developing countries, said India could apply the supercomputer data to missile development and its nuclear weapons programme.

The Commerce Department announced last week it had fined a West German company \$800,000 for exporting nuclear material to India and several other countries.

In general, President George Bush's government is easing controls over the export of supercomputers, partly because of growing pressure from manufacturers stung by government budget cuts and partly because of a relaxation in technology exports to formerly communist governments.

The Commerce Department is pruning and streamlining the lists of high-tech items banned for export to Eastern Europe. Nato has been pressing the United States to speed up the process.

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Inmates on the roof of Strangeways prison lower jugs and string and tape containing notes for the police in Manchester. (Reuters wirephoto)

US agrees to sell 'computer' to India

WASHINGTON, April 7. (AP): After months of debate, the United States has agreed in principle to sell a supercomputer to India that experts warn could be used to make nuclear weapons, sources say.

But the export license for the Cray Computer depends on India's willingness to adopt measures restricting the computer's use to peaceful research and preventing the transfer of its data to unauthorized people, one source said.

Indian officials are balking at the conditions, noting that another supercomputer bought in 1987 was only being used to forecast monsoons and that India had signed a 1984 agreement promising not to transfer high-tech equipment to other countries, several sources said.

The US Commerce Department, as well as other government agencies involved in approving supercomputer exports, refused to comment on the status of India's request to buy the supercomputer. India's embassy in Washington did not respond to repeated requests for information.

The well-placed informants who described the new US position on the supercomputer sale to India spoke only on condition of anonymity.

The US government has been ambivalent about exporting the state-of-the-art computers to countries with nuclear capabilities.

Decisions about the sale of similar computers to Israel and Brazil have been stalled for as long as two years, with the department of energy and the arms control and disarmament agency lobbying against the deals, said the source.

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Dogs deployed to end prison siege

Strangeways riots

MANCHESTER, April 7. (AP): Authorities used barking dogs, shouting guards and powerful lights to try to wear down the resistance of inmates still holding out as the Strangeways prison siege entered its seventh day today.

In pre-dawn activity, a police helicopter repeatedly flew low and noisily over the prison where a few dozen inmates were still on the loose and lit up the building with a powerful searchlight.

Lines of shouting prison officers beating nightsticks on riot shields and accompanied by barking guard dogs marched into the building, where the defiant inmates were holed up behind barricades.

But inmates fled on to the roof and one was heard chanting: "We won, we won, you lost."

The authorities appeared to be trying to wear prisoners down by preventing sleep and maintaining psychological pressure on the inmates.

A flickering strobe light played repeatedly over the roof of the prison in the northern city of Manchester.

Yesterday, prison authorities used blaring rock music and a wailing helicopter siren to drown out inmates shouting from the rooftop to reporters outside the prison's perimeter wall.

The Home Office reported two more surrenders by prisoners yesterday and said "fewer than 40" remained on the loose inside the prison. It refused to give a specific figure.

Prisoner Derek White, 46, died in north Manchester hospital on Tuesday of injuries he received at the hands of other inmates when the riot erupted on Sunday.

White had been on remand in Strangeways awaiting trial on charges of indecently assaulting three children.

Child molesters, convicted policemen and some other groups, are regarded with particular loathing by other prison inmates.

White's death was the only fatality resulting from the riot that had been confirmed by today.

But speculation that at least four other prisoners were killed by fellow inmates on Sunday increased when a lawyer for 40 of the surrendered prisoners said yesterday that several had reported witnessing killings.

Lawyers for other prisoners had heard similar tales, the attorney, Frank Smelcer, added. The reports cannot be checked until staff have access to the entire prison.

Strangeways housed prisoners of all categories, from extremely dangerous to low risk.

In a separate incident 80 miles (130 kms) southeast of Manchester, 36 inmates at Glen Parva centre for young offenders at Leicester surrendered to guards before dawn today. They had held them at bay more than seven hours, the Home Office said.

It said the protest at the Glen Parva Centre began last night when 60 inmates overpowered a guard. The guard was taken to hospital with a dislocated shoulder.

Twenty-four of the 60 surrendered later last night. The other 36 held out until early today.

The Glen Parva Centre housed 770 young male offenders aged between 16 and 20. The Home Office said the cause of the disturbance was being investigated.

Strangeways prison, which was built in 1868 to house 970 male prisoners, had 1,548 when the riot broke out during a service in the prison chapel on Sunday.

On Thursday, prisoner Paul Taylor, 28, a self-proclaimed leader of the rampage, shouted through a makeshift bullhorn to a TV crew perched on a roof opposite.

The mother of the self-declared ringleader of the uprising inside the prison offered yesterday to try and persuade her son to end a six-day-long siege that has left one dead and dozens wounded.

Elsewhere, at least 13 other people were killed in the previous three days in rebel-related clashes nation-wide, military reports said.

In Nueva Ecija province, a group of guerrillas Thursday attacked the provincial jail in Calasatran City, 100 km (60 miles) north of Manila. Troops guarding the jail fought off the rebels but suffered one death and two injuries.

Manila, April 7. (AP): Intelligence agents yesterday arrested two civilian supporters of a December coup attempt, the military reported.

Brig. Gen. Pantaleon Dumalo, chief of the Philippine Constabulary's Criminal Intelligence Service, said Danilo King de la Cruz and Arthur Garcia were apprehended in a car in suburban Quezon City.

Dumalo said the two were among civilian supporters who accompanied mutineers attempting to enter the capital through a southern road during the Dec 1-9 coupe attempt.

He said De la Cruz was a former soldier while Garcia was a member of a civilian gun club. The two were brought to constabulary headquarters for interrogation, Dumalo said.

Meanwhile, government troops killed 15 communist guerrillas yesterday during a military offensive in the central Philippines, the military reported.

The gun battle began shortly before noon in the town of Murcia in Negros Occidental province, about

496 kms (310 miles) south of Manila, said army chief Maj. Gen. Guillermo Flores.

Reports reaching Manila said troops from the army's special forces attacked about 80 New People's Army rebels who were resting in Murcia, Flores said.

He said the latest reports on the clash said 15 rebels had been killed by pursuing soldiers. There were no reports of casualties on the government side, he said.

Flores said troops also recovered 17 rifles, three machineguns, 12 hand guns, five grenades and a grenade launcher.

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Mammootty wins award

Dadasaheb Phalke award for Lata Mangeshkar

By Thomas Abraham
Arab Times Staff

NEW DELHI: Mammootty, the superstar of Malayalam cinema, was chosen for the best actor award in India's national film awards for 1989.

Mammootty was given the award for successfully portraying the multi-faceted roles in the films *Mathilukal* and *Oru Vadakkan Veeragatha*.

Mathilukal also earned for Adoor Gopalakrishnan the best direction award. He was cited for successfully capturing the spirit of the short story on his prison days by the celebrated writer Vaikom Mohammed Basheer.

Well-known playback singer, Lata Mangeshkar, was chosen for the 1989 Dadasaheb Phalke Award, given annually for life-long contribution to Indian cinema in memory of the pioneer Indian filmmaker.

The jury also made a special mention of popular Malayalam actor Mohan Lal for his portrayal of a young man's agony and

pain in *Kirvedom*.

The award for best feature film went to *Bagh Bahadur* in Hindi which depicts the steady destruction of rural folk traditions at the hands of a cheap and showy urban culture in the form of a cinematically vibrant and heroic classical tragedy.

The second best feature film award went to *Parashuram Kuthar* in Bengali for the moving fashion in which it elaborated the political and social hypocrisy of a town's middle class population.

The Indira Gandhi Award for the best first film of a director went to Gautam Bora for his film *Wosohipe* in the Karbi language.

Chandni in Hindi and *Gitanjali* in Telugu won the award for the best script, best film providing popular and wholesome entertainment.

The Nargis Dutt award for the best feature film on national integration was given to the Kannada film *Saniha Shikshunadu* while *Sandhy Raagam* in Tamil won the award for the best film on family welfare.

Unikkuttu Joli Kitti in Malayalam got the best film on other social issues. It is directed by V. R. Gopinath.

Bengali actress Sreelekha Mukherjee was named the best actress for her role in *Parashuram Kuthar* while Nana Patekar was given the award for best supporting actor for his role in the Hindi film *Parinda*.

Manorama got the best supporting actress award for her role in the Tamil film *Pudhu Padhai*.

Mritamaye Chandorkar was chosen for the best child artist award for her role in the Marathi film *Kalar Nakal*.

Ajoy Chakraborty and Anuradha Paudwal were given the best playback singer awards.

The awards were announced today by Information Minister P. Upendra and will be presented next month by President R Venkatarman.

The other awards announced today include: Best children's film - *Ankur Maina Aur Kahootar* (Hindi) and *Janhvi Savaari* (Kannada). Best cinematography:

Virendra Saini; best screenplay: M.T. Vasudevan Nair (*Oru Vadakkan Veeragatha* in Malayalam); best audiograph: Harikumar for *Amthilukal* in Malayalam; best editing: Renu Saluja for *Parinda* (Hindi); best art director: Krishnamoorthy for *Oru Vadakkan Veeragatha* in Malayalam; best costume designer: Krishnamoorthy for *Oru Vadakkan Veeragatha* in Malayalam; best feature film in Hindi: *Salim Lunge Pe Mat Ro*, director Sreed Mirza; best feature film in Malayalam: *Mathilukal*.

Lata Mangeshkar, who was chosen for the Phalke award, is one of the world's most recorded artists, with her name figuring in the Guinness Book of World Records. She has sung in almost all the Indian languages. She was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1969 and four Filmfare best playback awards.

In 1983, the Madhya Pradesh government honoured her by instituting an award in her name, given annually to performing artists in the field of light music.

Marrow donor born

Death spared

WEST COVINA, California, April 7, (AP): The family of a baby conceived in hopes she could donate bone marrow to her cancer-stricken sister said yesterday the newborn is a "blessing from God" who will be loved no matter what happens.

Abe Ayala and his daughter, Anissa, 18, who has leukemia, appeared at a news conference with the doctors who delivered the baby and will supervise the marrow transplant in a few months.

The mother, Mary Ayala, and the baby, Marissa Eve, were discharged from the hospital earlier in the day, but their whereabouts were not revealed.

"Mary and I are so happy that we have a baby girl, Marissa Eve, who was born Tuesday night. God has given us a healthy and happy baby. We think she is very beautiful," Ayala told reporters at Queen of the Valley Hospital.

"Right now we want to enjoy our baby daughter and we pray every day that our wonderful daughter Anissa will be spared death from her terrible disease," Ayala said.

Anissa was asked how she feels about the potential her baby sister has to be a life-saving marrow donor and said, "whether she is or whether she isn't, that doesn't change my feeling for her."

Pediatrician Rudolf Brutoco said the 6-pound, 4-ounce (385-gram) baby was healthy. Tests



Leukemia victim Anissa Ayala, 17, (left), hugs her pregnant mother Mary, 43, after a news conference in Los Angeles suburb on Feb. 16. Mrs. Ayala announced she is expecting a baby in the hope the child can become a bone marrow donor to Anissa. The child was born April 13 and could become a donor after it reaches six months of age. (Reuter wirephoto)

showed the infant's marrow was compatible with Anissa. Abe and Mary Ayala revealed eight weeks ago that they had conceived the baby as a last resort to save Anissa's life. The Ayalas had waited almost two years in vain for the national marrow donor programme to find a suitable donor.

Jury awards \$3.5m in largest fraud case

NEW YORK, April 7, (AP): A New York jury awarded \$3.5 million yesterday in a 13-year-old lawsuit charging one of the nation's largest vanity publishers with fraud and deception.

The \$11 million class action suit represents thousands of authors who have paid up to \$8,000 to have their book manuscripts published by New York-based Vantage Press since 1971. The so-called vanity presses publish books only at the author's expense.

Vantage Press' titles include "Traffic my way," the reminiscences of a parking meter man, "Dogs I have known" and "The sex life of a football referee."

The \$3.5 million will be divided among 2,200 authors once the court stipulates how much the plaintiffs' attorneys should receive, the New York Times reported.

"Vantage operates a sham operation rife with fraud and phantom editors," said Arthur J. Jacobs, attorney for the authors.

But Laurence Shanahan, a lawyer for the publisher, said, "Vantage did exactly what it promised these authors," by publishing their works and advertising them in mailings and small trade publications.

Vantage publishes about 400 books a year.

Hotel fire kills 3

21 hurt in Miami disaster

MIAMI BEACH, Florida April 7, (AP): Panicked tenants jumped from windows and crawled through smoky hallways as a pre-dawn fire destroyed a residential hotel yesterday killing three people and injuring 21, officials said.

Fourteen residents were unaccounted for hours after the three-alarm blaze broke out at the Fontana Hotel on Collins Avenue north of Miami Beach's trendy Art Deco district, fire chief Brantford Dorris said. But officials had no evidence they were trapped inside.

Many of the 100 to 150 residents were retirees, some of whom had to flee without their medications or hearing aids.

"It's a terrible fire. I don't know how to describe this when you have multiple deaths and you have total destruction of a building," said assistant fire chief John Reed. "I can't even think of the proper word to describe it."

Alfonso Teixeira, a 27-year-old Brazilian, was awakened in

his room by a frightened resident.

"I saw this guy running in the hall, shouting fire, fire, big, big," Teixeira said.

The hotel had smoke alarms but no sprinklers, authorities said. Mayor Alex Daoud said the intensity of the 3 am fire led investigators to suspect arson, but detective Jim Hyde said no evidence of arson had been found in the early stages of the investigation.

Tenants reported a water leak, raising the possibility of an electrical short, Dorris said.

Myrtle Jackson, a yearly tenant said the smoke was too thick and there was no chance to help anyone else — "no time to be a hero tonight."

Long-time residents said the hotel housed between 100 and 200 residents, most of whom rented by the week, month or year. A few vacationers also were believed in the building when the fire broke out.

PEOPLE AND PLACES



Rembrandt's painting sprayed

A 31-year-old man on Friday sprayed a chemical on Rembrandt's world famous "Night Watch" at the Rijksmuseum, but a museum official said damage was slight thanks to a fast-acting guard.

The substance left a white streak on the 1642 masterpiece, but a private museum security guard immediately applied a neutralizing agent and the damage appeared limited to the painting's surface, said spokesman Piet van Thiel, of the internationally known Dutch museum.

It was the third vandal attack against the priceless painting this century.

The suspect was immediately taken into custody by museum guards, but police said his motives were unclear. Police spokesman Klaas Wiling said the attacker was "confused and not telling us anything at the moment."

April 13 to document Miss Gabor's work there.

Miss Gabor was convicted Sept. 29 for slapping officer Paul Kramer during a traffic stop. She also was convicted of driving without a license and having an open container of alcohol in her Rolls-Royce. She was sentenced to four days in jail, but that portion of the sentence is being appealed. (AP)

PORTLAND, Maine: Figure skaters Katarina Witt and Brian Boitano, rehearsing for their upcoming 34-city international tour, say there's a special chemistry in their performance on ice.

Boitano said they anticipate each other's movements and share similar feelings about how the partner's role fits in with his or her own.

"The way we conceive of each part is the same," Boitano said. "So if I say, 'I really feel like I'm doing

this,' she'll go, 'I feel the same way.' And when I look at her I can see that she feels the same way."

Boitano, of the United States, and Witt, of East Germany, began two weeks of rehearsals in Portland preparing for the show in which the reigning Olympic gold medalists will skate together for the first time before a live audience.

The skaters won gold medals in the 1988 Olympics in Calgary. (AP)

LONDON: Britain's Civil Aviation Authority launched on Friday a new code aimed at improving air passengers' awareness of safety and security on planes.

The air travellers' code offers advice on the size and content of passengers' luggage, as well as on smoking and drinking on the aircraft, spokeswoman for the authority Kaye Warner told the British media.

She said increasing numbers of

people were carrying dangerous items in their luggage, such as firearms, fireworks, non-safety matches, gases, poisons and corrosives.

CINCINNATI: A preview exhibit of Robert Mapplethorpe's sexually explicit photographs opened before hundreds of people just hours after a judge refused to say whether the show was obscene.

The photos, once denounced by US Sen. Jesse Helms and the target of a large local protest, drew an overflow crowd on Friday for a preview open only to members of the contemporary arts centre. It was to close to the public on Saturday and open on May 26.

An hour after the show opened, a museum attendant estimated 1,000 people had seen the photos and a bloc-long line formed outside. More than 3,000 tickets were sold.

Suicide

Business decision

WASHINGTON, April 7, (Reuter): A US taxpayer whose business was virtually destroyed because of a tax lien on his property killed himself so his widow could collect his life insurance, a Senate hearing was told yesterday.

Speaking in a low, halting voice, the widow, Kay Council told a Senate subcommittee that her husband Alex, a 49-year-old developer, had made a "business decision" to commit suicide in June 1988.

"I have taken my life in order to provide capital for you," Council told his wife in a suicide note. "The IRS (Internal Revenue Service) and its liens which have been taken out illegally by a run-away agency of our government has dried up all sources of credit for us."

"So I have made the only decision I can. It's purely a business decision. I hope you understand that."

Mrs. Council, 48, said that four months later she was able to pay her attorneys with life insurance money and won a court judgment barring the IRS from collecting \$300,000 in tax, penalties and interest it claimed the Councils owed and ordered the lien to be cancelled.

"She said the year-old lien had practically ruined their business by drying up credit and made it impossible to refinance a construction loan on their home."

Council said the court last August ordered the IRS to pay her attorneys \$5,27,000 of the nearly \$70,000 in legal fees she had incurred since her husband's death.

"Look at the battles I've won," she said. "But I lost the war because my husband is dead."

Women seduced and blackmailed

ROME, April 7, (Reuter): A 25-year-old life guard apparently seduced up to 50 women on Italy's beaches and then blackmailed them with candid photos taken with a hidden camera, police said yesterday.

They said they had arrested the life guard, the owner of a villa in Brindisi on the southeast coast of Italy where he took his co-quests, and another accomplice who was grabbed as he tried to collect money from the latest blackmail victim on the outskirts of Rome.

The gang threatened to send the pictures to their victims' husbands, boyfriends or parents if they did not pay up.

BEVERLY HILLS, California: The judge who ordered Zsa Zsa Gabor to work at a women's shelter as part of her sentence for hitting a policeman wants a detailed accounting of her hours of community service.

"Kindly send me copies of all records kept to document her community service activities as to dates, times and activities performed," municipal Judge Charles Rubin wrote to the director of the homeless shelter.

In the letter, Rubin gave Vera Davis, executive director of the Venice-area Life-cap Shelter unit

Guess which was designed for the Gulf and which for Europe?

They both reflect the same high quality you expect from the name Mercedes. And yet there are subtle differences, which can mean a lot when it comes to performance, power, safety and re-sale value. Differences based on such important considerations as government regulations, the weather and the environment. In essence, it means that a car designed for the snow

of Europe is not the car you want to drive in the searing heat of Kuwait. So, when you purchase your Mercedes from A.R. Al Bisher & Z. Al Kazemi Co., you can be sure that it incorporates all the modifications and added features necessary for local driving. Plus, we provide a first class service with highly trained engineers, strict quality

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INTERNATIONAL

Colombia
cartel to
step up
offensive

MEDELLIN, Colombia, April 7. (Reuters) Colombia's drug barons pledged yesterday to step up their war against political and industrial leaders.

The drug traffickers, known as "the Extraditables" because they are wanted in the United States, said fighting the government's policy of extradition was no longer their main concern.

"Our principal motive for war will be the torture, murder and disappearance of our colleagues," they said in a statement.

Referring to the shooting deaths of at least 14 policemen in the cocaine capital of Medellin this week, the drug barons said they would order the suspension of executions of policemen who had never taken part in torture.

"But by contrast we will step up our war against the torturers and against the industrial and political oligarchy which are accomplices of torture and murder," the Extraditables said in a statement sent to news organisations.

"We will not lower our banner and we will respond with bombs and executions to extradition and disappearances," they said.

The statement was issued the day after police defused a bomb estimated at around 800 kg (1,700 lbs) hidden in a truck parked in a wealthy suburb of the capital Bogota. Police said it was intended to kill Colombia's security chief.

Drug traffickers claimed responsibility for kidnapping Federico Estrada Velez, a senator of the ruling Liberal Party and a former ambassador in Italy, who was snatched from his car by gunmen while driving in Medellin on Tuesday morning. Velez was released unharmed on Thursday. The drug traffickers had threatened to kill him if two of their colleagues said to be detained by police were killed.

The drug barons have alleged that many people detained by the authorities in the anti-drug fight have been tortured or have disappeared.

Most politicians have believed until now that fear of extradition to the United States was the main motive for the drug barons' offensive against the state, which has killed more than 200 lives since last August.

But the Extraditables again referred to themselves as a "political-military organisation," emphasising that they believe their struggle has political overtones.

The drug barons said detainees held at a police school in Medellin had been taken outside and executed.

"We denounce these things only as testimony for history, because we know that they will never be investigated since our people are not governed by a president but by the strength and power of four criminal police officers," the Extraditables said, referring to the chiefs of four police bodies.

A wave of drug-related bombings and assassinations swept the country after the government cracked down on the illegal drug trade last August.

Violence eased after the drug barons offered peace in January. The renewed violence follows the government's rejection of their offer.

Panama: The Foreign Ministry announced yesterday it has denied safe-conduct passes to three officials of deposed dictator Manuel Antonio Noriega's government who sought refuge at the Peruvian and Mexican embassies, saying they are wanted for common crimes.

Majs. Heracles Sucre and Gonzalez, who sought refuge at the Peruvian embassy after Noriega's overthrow by a US invasion Dec. 20, are wanted on charges of murder, the ministry said in the statement.

Rafael Arosemena Alvarado, who sought asylum at the Mexican Embassy, is wanted for embezzling \$21 million, corruption and conspiracy while he was manager of the Bank of Panama under Noriega, the ministry said. The three were granted political asylum by the embassies, which asked President Guillermo Endara's government for safe-conduct passes so they could leave Panama.

Honduras: Negotiations for the Contra demobilisation have stalled because of disagreement on a verifiable ceasefire and the size of Nicaraguan security zones, rebel leaders say. One of them, Oscar Sivalbarro, also known as Commander Ruben, said in an interview Thursday night that it was impossible for his guerrillas to disarm before the leftist Sandinista government leaves office April 25.

NEWS IN BRIEF

America

Rather criticises news reporting: CBS news anchorman Dan Rather told the nation's newspaper editors Friday that today's journalism depends too much on polls and research to determine the reporting of news.

In a tough speech to the American Society of Newspaper Editors, Rather said the news profession is in danger of attracting "lightweights," and he denounced news decisions made by accountants.

In particular, Rather was critical of television and newspaper executives who cut back on the coverage of international news because of its cost and because "real people" are not interested.

Rather said journalists must be careful in criticising political leaders for avoiding controversy and using market research, polling and so-called focus groups to shape their stance on issues. (UPI)

2 women plead guilty in axe attack: Two of three women accused of attacking a man with an axe in a ritual honouring Jack the Ripper have pleaded guilty and agreed to testify against the third in Milwaukee.

Catherine Lipsham, 22, and Ramona Barry, 27, both of Milwaukee, pleaded guilty Friday in circuit court to attempted first-degree intentional homicide in the May 29 attack on the 26-year-old man whose name was being withheld.

Assistant District Attorney Mark Williams agreed to seek a maximum of eight years in prison for each of the two women in exchange for their testimony against Deborah Kazuck, 26.

Ms Kazuck's trial is set to begin Monday with jury selection in Madison. Sentencing for Ms Lipsham and Ms Barry is set for May 25.

According to the criminal complaint, the three women told police they planned to dismember the victim's body, drain his blood and eat his kidneys in a ritual they believed would bring Jack the Ripper back to life.

The women called the attack a "kicking," a combination of "killing" and "Jack," the complaint said. Police said Ms Kazuck told officers she wanted to commit the attack to prove her love for Jack the Ripper, the famous 19th century British serial killer, whom she said she believed was her son in a previous life. (AP)

Woman found strangled: A young woman has been found strangled in the same area in Kansas City where six other bodies have been discovered since September, fueling fears that the deaths are the work of a serial killer.

It was the seventh time in as many months that a black woman in her 20s or 30s has been found dead in or around Gilliam Park, said Sgt Greg Mills of the Kansas City Police Department.

All the women had been strangled, Mills said, and none of the killings has been solved.

He would say only that police are investigating the possibility of a serial killer.

The latest victim was discovered Thursday morning by a woman walking her dog, Mills said. The victim was identified as Michelle Mitchell, 22, of Kansas City. (AP)

Quake jolts San Francisco: A moderate earthquake jolted the San Francisco Bay area Friday night, causing minor damage, and jarring nerves of those reminded of last year's killer quake.

The quake, which struck at 7:39 pm (0239 GMT Saturday), registered 4.5 on the Richter scale, according to a preliminary reading from the state office of emergency services. That is considered strong enough to cause moderate damage in the immediate area.

The quake, one of several tremors felt throughout the afternoon, was centred near Danville, about 20 miles (32 kilometres) southeast of San Francisco and inland from San Francisco Bay.

At Candlestick Park, where an exhibition ballgame between the San Francisco Giants and Oakland Athletics had just gotten underway, players and spectators seemed momentarily stunned.

"Everybody sort of sat up and said, 'no, that didn't happen. Did someone jump hard?'" said Bob Eggle, an Associated Press reporter who was covering the game. "It looked like the players hesitated." (AP)

Redoubt erupts again: A new Redoubt eruption confirmed the pattern that geologists have observed in the seismic activity around the volcano over the past four months.

Increasing tremors at the volcano's base heralded a moderate blast Friday from the 10,197-foot (3,110-metre) volcano about 110 miles (177 kilometres) southwest of Anchorage, said geologist Michael Doukas.

The same earthquake pattern preceded moderate eruptions on March 23 and March 29.

Africa

Mugabe renews pledge: Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe on Friday renewed his pledge to create a one-party state, a week after his forces captured all but three of the contested parliamentary seats in national elections.

"A multi-party system in our circumstances is nothing but a disastrous way to the doom of our nation," he told his ruling party's central committee, "for it is indeed a sure way to national destruction."

Mugabe's Zimbabwe African National Union Party, which has ruled Zimbabwe since independence a decade ago, won 116 of the 119 seats contested in presidential and parliamentary polls last week. It was Zimbabwe's second election since independence from Britain. (AP)

African mini-summit: The presidents of four African nations met Friday in Sao Tome e Principe for talks aimed at ending a 15-year civil war between Angola's Marxist government and US-backed rebels, the Angolan State News Agency reported.

According to the Angop report, Angolan President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos met with his Congolese counterpart, Denis Sassou N'Guesso. President Omar Bongo of Gabon and host President Manuel Pinto De Costa for a one-day mini-summit.

The summit was held in a hotel in Sao Tome e Principe.

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Jackson, Trump dinner

Enroute to a private dinner, Michael Jackson (left) and Donald Trump (right) struggle through the crowd of frenzied fans waiting for the duo outside a restaurant at Trump's new Taj Mahal hotel/casino in Atlantic City on Friday. (Reuters wirephoto)



Fashion show

Model for Geoffrey Beene at the 1990 Fall/Winter fashion show in New York on Friday, wears short black dress with sheer cape. (Reuters wirephoto)



Miss Universe Pageant

Miss Soviet Union Evia Stalbovska (left) and Miss USA Carole Gist greet Mickey Mouse on Friday on the Hollywood "Walk of Fame." The 1990 Miss Universe pageant will be held on April 16. (Reuters wirephoto)

in the tiny archipelago nation off the Gabonese Coast. (AP)

UPI reporter missing after ambush: A mining company train was ambushed Friday in a rebel-controlled area of northeastern Liberia. Three passengers, including a journalist who wrote for United Press International, were missing after the attack.

British embassy officials said two inspections by Liberian authorities of the ambush site found no trace of the missing passengers. No blood stains or other signs of foul play were found, the officials said, and authorities planned a more extensive inspection.

"Liberian troops are on the edge of the area, but the search had been suspended for the night," a diplomat said.

Abidjan student killed: The government closed all schools and universities Saturday for the rest of the academic year after renewed student demonstrations for multiparty democracy. One student was reported killed.

Police used tear gas, stun grenades and baton-charged students to break up the demonstrations.

The government, in a communique read on national radio, said "increasingly serious acts of vandalism" by a "deceitful minority" forced the closure. (AP)

Bush issues order
to protect Chinese

Prevent from forced repatriation

WASHINGTON, April 7, (UPI) President George Bush, acknowledging the need for additional safeguards for visiting Chinese students, kept his January promise and issued an executive order yesterday to prevent them from being forced to return home.

Bush issued the executive order after pledging just hours earlier to make good on his January promise to issue such an order after vetoing legislation aimed at protecting Chinese students from forced repatriation.

The White House had acknowledged earlier this week that Bush never issued the promised executive order, deciding instead to direct Attorney General Dick Thornburgh to take other steps to ensure no Chinese nationals are deported against their will.

In a statement issued yesterday Bush said that since issuing a Nov 30, 1989, presidential directive deferring enforced departure for the students, "I have recognised that there are two issues important to the Chinese nationals here that were not addressed by (the congressional legislation he voted) or by my November 30 directive.

Specifically, the executive order will direct Thornburgh to extend the deferral of enforced departure for Chinese citizens through Jan 1, 1994. The deferral otherwise would have expired June 5 of this year.

"This will provide assurance to Chinese nationals that they can remain in this country for the entire period" promised earlier, Bush said.

His order also directs that "steps be taken to alleviate concerns that have arisen recently about" revocation of visas belonging to Chinese nationals.

Bush said the order also will include all facets of his original directive, though he contended the directive "had precisely the same legal effect as an executive order."

"We don't want to take a chance on somebody being mistreated, brutalised, if you will," Bush earlier told the convention of the American Society of Newspaper Editors.

The president's pledge was applauded by representative Nancy Pelosi, Democrat of California, whose legislation to allow Chinese students to remain in the United States was vetoed by Bush in November.

A convoy of some 400 fully equipped riot police drove into Beijing today reinforcing tight security ahead of key anniversaries of last year's pro-democracy demonstrations.

A Reuters photographer saw 10 trucks, each carrying about 40 helmeted police with steel riot shields, heading into town from the northeast. Insignia on the helmets identified the men as members of China's People's Armed Police.

It was the first time a squad of police with modern riot control equipment has been seen in Beijing.

Cambodian
rebels launch
major raids

ARANYAPRATHET, Thailand, April 7, (AP) Four thousand Cambodian guerrillas launched major attacks yesterday in a bid to recapture territory seized by Phnom Penh government forces in recent weeks, senior guerrilla officials said.

A spokesman for the Khmer People's National Liberation Front said the group's fighters seized Don Nui yesterday and intended to retake Sisophon, a major cross-roads town in western Cambodia.

"We have launched a large scale counter-offensive involving all our forces," said Ok Sere Sopheap, a senior KPNLF official.

The KPNLF led by former Prime Minister Son Sann is one of three guerrilla groups allied in a loose coalition to fight the Vietnam-backed government in Cambodia. The also coalition includes the communist Khmer Rouge and the pro-communist forces of Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

The KPNLF is reeling from government attacks that have seized much of the some 2,000 square miles (5,180 square kilometres) of territory that the guerrillas have held since last fall.

The embattled territory is located in western Cambodia near the Thai border along which the China-supplied and Thai-supported coalition has most of its bases.

The latest blow to the KPNLF came last Tuesday when Phnom Penh troops retook the district capital of Thmar Puok.

Meanwhile, three other fishing boats arrived from different



Elite troops

Newly promoted troops of the United States trained elite Atlacatl Battalion stand at attention on Friday, during their graduation ceremony in San Salvador. (Reuters wirephoto)

Boat people
attacked: UN

3 killed, 11 missing

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, April 7, (AP) Four boatloads of fishermen armed with knives and iron rods attacked a boat carrying 191 Vietnamese "boat people," brutally killing three people and abducting six women, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said yesterday.

The UNHCR said 11 other Vietnamese were missing and presumed drowned in Monday's attack, the first known assault on Vietnamese boat people off the Malaysian coast this year.

"The UNHCR strongly believes that this tragedy underlines once again the importance of granting safe haven as soon as possible to Vietnamese asylum seekers in accord with all humanitarian and maritime obligations," the UNHCR said in a statement.

One hundred and seventy-one of the 191 people aboard the Vietnamese vessel escaped the hour-long attack on April 2 and made it safely to a US Exxon oil rig off the Trengganu coast, in the South China Sea, 500 kilometres (300 miles) northeast of Kuala Lumpur, the UNHCR said.

The UNHCR did not identify the attackers, but other refugee officials said information given by the refugees indicated they were Thai fishermen.

The Vietnamese left Camau on the southern tip of Vietnam on Sunday, and at about 6 pm the next day a fishing vessel came alongside and offered them ice and water, the UNHCR said.

Meanwhile, three other fishing boats arrived from different

directions. One approached the Vietnamese boat, and three men armed with knives boarded it and seized watches, jewellery and money from the Vietnamese and took the boat's compass, the UNHCR said.

They attempted to abduct a 20-year-old female, and when she resisted one attacker stabbed her to death and threw her body into the sea, the agency said.

The two other fishing boats then pulled alongside the Vietnamese craft, it said. Six or seven men armed with knives, iron rods and hacksaws came aboard and began looting anything of value from the boat, including baggage, tools, the engine battery, the crankshaft handle of one engine and 400 litres (106 gallons) of diesel fuel, it said.

The fishermen threw all the food they found overboard, and then abducted six Vietnamese women, it said.

The two boats moved away at about 6:50 pm the UNHCR statement said. The first boat then returned and rammed the Vietnamese boat at full speed three times, causing 20 to 30 Vietnamese males to fall overboard, it said.

At least two of the men were killed, the agency said, when they attempted to grab on to ropes hanging down from the fishermen's boats.

When the four fishing boats left at about 7 pm, 11 Vietnamese men were missing and presumed drowned, two males and one female had been stabbed to death, and six Vietnamese women had been abducted, it said.

At least one black man was killed when police opened fire on a large crowd near Ladang, according to the state-run South African Broadcasting Corp. The police also said their patrol had been shot at when they tried to separate the fighting groups. They said one police officer was killed and three injured.

Crowds attacked funeral processions, firing on the mourners and breaking open coffins, police said.

The various reports listed a total of at least 10 deaths.

Jewish protest
A militant Jewish group, Jewish Defence Organisation, is giving South African Jews military training and plans demonstrations against Mandela if he visits the United States, according to a report yesterday.

Sworn in
Thousands of African National Congress supporters jeered and booed yesterday during a speech by the leader of Thursday's military coup in the nominally independent Venda homeland.

Col Gabriel Ramushwana, a former security policeman, told a news conference that "authorities" called him back to Venda to take over the government.

Ten die
in Natal
black
infighting

JOHANNESBURG, (AP) At least 10 people were new fighting yesterday in black factions in Natal, while blacks and whites in President F.W. De Klerk's black leader Nelson Mandela's

resuming peace talks. The new violence came after De Klerk and Mandela agreed Thursday in Cape Town to proceed with talks on removing obstacles to formal negotiations on a new constitution to give the black majority national voting rights.

The two leaders hailed their agreement as a breakthrough and called for an end to violence that has left hundreds dead in recent weeks.

Andries Treurnicht, leader of the pro-apartheid Conservative Party, criticised the government for what he called an "alliance with" Mandela's African National Congress and the Communist Party.

At a Pretoria speech commemorating the day Dutch settlers arrived in South Africa in 1652, Treurnicht called for unity among "the white nation."

"We need everyone so that on the day the state president comes to hold a referendum on his new constitution, this white community can stand shoulder to shoulder and simply reject any dispensation that denies white freedom," he said.

Selling out
Meanwhile, leaders of the anti-apartheid Pan-Africanist Congress accused Mandela and the ANC of "selling out" by negotiating with the government.

The Pan-Africanist Congress, a rival guerrilla movement broke away from the ANC in the 1950s in a dispute over whites' rights to any South African land.

Since De Klerk legalised outlawed organisations in February, PAC leaders have said they are winning converts from militant youths in black townships.

The students are restless and the townships are producing a climate for revolution," PAC internal President Zeph Mofokeng said at the byes of his offices in Cape Town.

"The leader of a national organisation of township youth groups, commonly known as 'Comrades,' called yesterday for young people to join the ANC's military wing."

"This government still needs to be battered and defeated," said Peter Mokabe of the South African Youth Congress. He appeared at Mandela's side at a news conference in the past week.

"You should not only join the ANC, but also its underground structures, including its military wing," Mokabe told a crowd of 2,000 at a black medical school in Mamelodi, a township outside Pretoria.

De Klerk legalised the ANC's military wing, "Spear of the Nation," but its activities, such as bombing and sabotage, are still illegal. De Klerk has said the ANC's calls for continued armed struggle interfere with the process of negotiation.

A preliminary meeting between De Klerk and the ANC scheduled for April 11 was postponed by the black delegation to protest police shootings of black protesters last week.

Police said yesterday that rival Zulu war bands armed with guns, knives and sticks clashed around the Natal capital of Pietermaritzburg. War bands also set fire to homes and fought on the hillsides around black townships and clashed with police, who fired on crowds with rifles, pistols and shotguns, police said.

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Llosa's chances dim

Shining Path rebels kill 3 sailors

LIMA, Peru, April 7, (AP) Celebrated novelist Mario Vargas Llosa's chances for an outright victory in Sunday's presidential election have dimmed dramatically and a runoff victory also is in doubt, pollsters said yesterday.

A last-minute surge by dark-horse candidate Alberto Fujimori has cut deeply into Vargas Llosa's once commanding lead, according to the pollsters.

Fujimori, 51, is the son of Japanese immigrants. A political independent like Vargas Llosa, he was virtually unknown for Peruvian voters as recently as five weeks ago.

Meanwhile, Shining Path

rebels shot and killed three sailors and knocked out electricity throughout the central Andes in a series of pre-election attacks yesterday, authorities said.

Two sailors were wounded in the attack near the town of Luciana, on the Apurimac River in Ayacucho Department, 272 miles (435 kilometres) southeast of Lima, the military command said. There was no report of rebel casualties.

Guerrillas dynamited two electoral towers near Huancayo, 120 miles (195 kilometres) east of Lima, and a substation near Huacra, 190 miles (320 kilometres) north of Lima. The

attacks left most of the central Andes, including the rebel stronghold of Ayacucho, without power.

Police confirmed yesterday that two women and one man were killed on Thursday when at least 20 guerrillas attacked the village of Pongora, near Ayacucho.

The guerrillas entered the town in mid-afternoon and shot their victims in front of other villagers, the police said.

Surveys conducted in the last week by Apoyo and the Peruvian company for market research (CPI) showed a steady fall for Llosa from about 45 per cent in mid-March to 35-37 per cent



Residents of the Andean city of Ayacucho look at the bodies of two neighbours, who were killed by the Shining Path guerrillas on April 5, just days before the national presidential elections. (Reuters wirephoto)



Mario Vargas Llosa waves to supporters during a rally. (Reuters wirephoto)



Papandreu accompanied by his wife Omitra Liani waves to supporters in Athens (Reuters wirephoto)

Greece polls unlikely to break deadlock

Liani is back on the campaign trail with Pap

ATHENS, April 7, (AP) — For the third time in less than a year, Greece is holding an election aimed at breaking a deadlock that left temporary coalitions running the country since the scandal-ridden Socialists were thrown out.

Opinion polls indicate Sunday's parliamentary election will fail to produce a one-party government, resulting in another coalition administration with small parties in a powerbroker's role.

Frustration has led to violence. Leftist terrorists calling for an election boycott have set off scores of bombs, and clashes have erupted between conservatives and socialists.

The conservative New Democracy Party led by Constantine Mitsotakis is hoping that this time around, it will win an absolute majority in the 300-member unicameral Parliament. It came close in June and November elections.

The Conservatives won 146 seats in June and improved to 148 places in November, three short of a majority. The Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pavlos) of former Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu was a close second.

The Conservatives and the small communist-led coalition of the left and progress teamed up after the June vote, which ousted Papandreu after eight years in office.

ATHENS, April 7, (Reuters) — Dimara Liani is back on the campaign trail with former prime minister Andreas Papandreu ahead of Sunday's Greek election.

Liani told the Athens magazine Tachydromis in March that she was not afraid to go to the polls without her husband (Papandreu).

The former air hostess' marriage to Papandreu, 71, last July consummated a three-year romance that shocked Greece and contributed to his election defeat last June after eight years in power.

Gone are her curly blonde mane and leather mini skirts. In a conservative sun, her straight hair pulled back, Liani, 34, recently sat next to the US ambas-

sador in Athens to watch her husband take part in a political debate.

"I have been through a great deal. I have identified myself with this relationship and, why hide it? I am afraid for my future without this man (Papandreu)," Liani told the Athens magazine Tachydromis in March.

Her constant youthful presence next to the Socialist Party leader during the campaign before elections on Sunday, helped dispel fears about his health after open heart surgery.

They met on an Olympic Airways flight while she was serving the prime minister drinks but the

relationship was made public only two years later when Papandreu was rushed to London for a triple bypass heart operation in September 1988.

Picture of the couple walking the hospital grounds holding hands shocked the public.

Liani promptly divorced her second husband, Papandreu divorced his second wife of 18 years, American-born Margaret Chant, two days before elections last June. They have four grown-up children.

With his marriage to Liani the former US citizen and University of California at Berkeley dean of economics shed his last traces of Americanism.

Differences narrow over Soviet Jews

Shevardnadze meets Bush to discuss next summit

WASHINGTON, April 7, (Agencies) — The United States and the Soviet Union have reported a narrowing of differences over German unification and the flight of Soviet Jews to Israel, in preparatory discussions for a superpower summit.

But both sides warned of obstacles to signing a major missile-reduction treaty at the summit.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze met for more than two hours yesterday with President George Bush to discuss his scheduled five-day summit with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev starting May 30.

Meanwhile, US Secretary of State James Baker said Moscow had dropped its insistence that a reunified Germany be neutral.

"There was a recognition that perhaps neutrality is not the best route to go," he told reporters.

"We have to look for a solution, a solution that would be acceptable" to both NATO and the Warsaw Pact, Shevardnadze said in adopting a conciliatory stance of unification.

Shevardnadze did not offer any specifics beyond a suggestion that perhaps the merged country could be part both of NATO and the Warsaw Pact.

"It is possible that we will be able to find a mutually acceptable way, a way that will make sure that a unified Germany is a factor for stability in Europe and that it never threatens anyone," he said.

Baker said the Soviets continued to object to a united Germany having membership in NATO. The US official said the idea of Germany being in both alliances was not "attractive."

"We were equally firm in our view that the unified Germany must remain a member of NATO," Baker said.

In another area, Shevardnadze said the Soviets were willing to implement an agreement for direct flights of Jewish refugees to Israel provided Israel gave assurances they would not be settled "in the occupied territories."

He said he included east Jerusalem as part of the occupied territories, as well as the West Bank and Gaza.

Shevardnadze also held out the prospect of resuming normal diplomatic ties with Israel after a 23-year lapse — depending on "the overall Middle East situation."

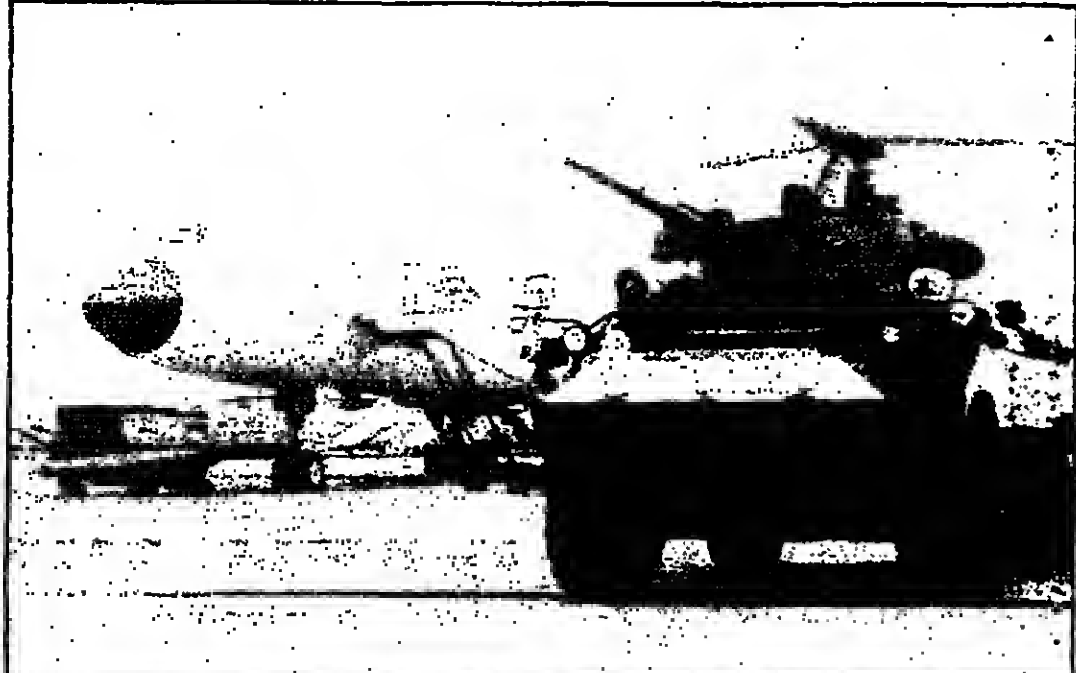
Both the United States and Soviet Union expressed reservations about being able to resolve the major issues for a new treaty to reduce long-range nuclear weapons before the summit, a goal they set for themselves when Bush met Gorbachev last year in Malta.

Shevardnadze said "I would not hide from you the fact that... we have encountered certain difficulties, certain problems" in Washington for a strategic arms reduction treaty.

Bush warned Shevardnadze that a crackdown against the breakaway republic of Lithuania would be a setback to superpower relations.

"I don't think we are telling them what to do. We're telling them what not to do — and that is, don't use force," Bush told reporters after the White House meeting.

Shevardnadze later told reporters that the Soviet leaders were committed to working toward a peaceful settlement in Lithuania, a Baltic republic that declared independence from the Soviet Union on March 11.



An armoured personnel carrier of the Hungarian anti-terrorist squad guards a Malev Airlines jet carrying Soviet Jews at Budapest Airport on Friday. Security has been increased following threats from Islamic Jihad organisation. (Reuters wirephoto)

Call to renounce force

Genscher asks Germans

WASHINGTON, April 7, (Reuters) — West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, seeking to ease concerns over German unification, urged both Germans yesterday to renounce jointly the use of force for political goals.

Speaking at the annual meeting of the American Society of Newspaper Editors, Genscher said East and West Germany should announce they would never make or possess nuclear, chemical or biological weapons.

Nothing concerns about the prospect of the two Germans being united for the first time since World War II, he said a single Germany would not be a threat to the Soviet Union or other countries but would be a force for stability.

He said East and West Germany could contribute to stability ahead of the planned European security summit this November — the 35-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation (CSCE) — by pledging never to use arms for political gains.

"It will be a major contribution to peace in Europe if both German states solemnly declare that they renounce for all time the use of force in the pursuit of political gains," Genscher said.

"Both German states can reaffirm jointly that they renounce the manufacture and possession of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons."

He also said the European security summit should guarantee free elections, human rights and protection of minorities.

Genscher said the CSCE should set up watchdog groups to ensure agreed principles are also put into practice.

He also called for a "new trans-Atlantic partnership" among the United States, Canada and the European Economic Community (EEC) to guide the Western partnership as Europe moves towards a new identity.

"The CSCE process must become a framework of stability for the dynamic, dramatic and sometimes revolutionary developments in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union," Genscher said.

"The summit opens up the possibility of designing perspectives for a new peaceful order in all of Europe."

The Soviet Union has signalled it is willing to back off from a demand that a united Germany be neutral, Secretary of State James Baker said.

But Baker said Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze had also made it clear that Moscow would not go so far as to accept Western demands that a reunited Germany be part of NATO.

That qualifier was confirmed by Shevardnadze himself as he closed out a three-day Washington visit. But in a generally conciliatory statement on the German issue, he said he expected Moscow and the West would work out a mutually acceptable compromise on the future Germany.

In East Berlin, the leader of East Germany's second-largest political party said yesterday he doubted that a broad coalition government could be formed before April 15, as disputes still plagued the young democracy.

Markus Meckel, acting chairman of the Social Democratic Party, said the conservative Christian Democratic Union, or CDU, still had not presented a single "position" on future policies that will lead to unification.

Former East German communist leader Egon Krenz was twice slapped in the face by an angry East German immigrant when he appeared in public to promote a book he has written on the communists' fall from power, a newspaper said.

He followed this up by denouncing a gradual independence plan unveiled by Estonia.

The three Baltic Republics, independent between the two World Wars, were incorporated into Stalin's Soviet Union in 1940 after elections that many historians say were rigged by Moscow.

But Latvian party chief Jan Vagnis warned the republic's congress that the Party and the republic could not afford to follow Lithuania's lead and reaffirm pre-1940 independence.

"The real political independence of Latvia is possible only when its economic independence is guaranteed. However, today in Latvia there is not an economic structure appropriate to a sovereign state," Vagnis told party members.

Meanwhile, pro-Moscow forces in Riga, the Latvian capital, have made moves against the powerful Popular Front which is spearheading the republic's separatist movement.

Armenian Communist Party leader Suren Arutunyan was relieved of his duties yesterday by the Republican Party leadership, the official Tass News Agency said.

Latvian reds set to split up party

RIGA, Soviet Union, April 7, (Reuters) — Latvia's Communist Party is set to split today over the burning issue of independence and sound another alarm bell in the Kremlin from the restless Baltic Republics.

Juris Rosenwald, a leader of the pro-independence wing of the Communist Party, predicted it would break into pro-Moscow and independent factions today, the second day of the party's congress.

"I am deeply convinced there is no possible compromise," he said.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has already warned Lithuania, there could be "grave consequences" if it does not rescind its March 11 declaration.

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Europe

Airline pilot resigns: A British Airways pilot whose plane nearly crashed into a hotel after a road was mistaken for a runway has resigned from the airline, a spokesman said.

Captain Glenn Stewart handed in his notice before the start of a disciplinary inquiry into the incident, the British Airways spokesman said on Friday.

Stewart was preparing to land a Boeing 747 at London's Heathrow Airport last November when it nearly hit a hotel after lining up to land on a road near the airport. (Reuters)

Military told to halt flights: Canadian peace groups said they won an important moral battle this week when an independent panel recommended that Nato low-level training flights be reduced, but the military vowed to continue flying.

The Federal Environmental Assessment Panel told Canada's military on Wednesday to reduce the flights over traditional Indian hunting grounds near Goose Bay, Labrador.

But the Canadian Department of National Defence rejected any cut, saying it would jeopardise Canada's reputation as a dependable ally. (Reuters)

Italy to enlist armed forces: The government on Friday said it would deploy the armed forces in an effort to stem the flow of illegal immigrants into Italy, mostly from developing countries.

The five-party coalition announced after a cabinet meeting that Navy ships would patrol Italy's coastline and Army soldiers would be posted along the country's northeast border.

The plan was proposed by Deputy Premier Claudio Martelli, who said earlier this week "the police forces alone can not control clandestine immigration. The intervention of the armed forces is necessary." (AP)

Basque separatist blamed: A suspected Basque separatist gunman shot to death an alleged drug trafficker and his wife in a midnight attack outside a bar in this northern Basque city, a government spokesman said Saturday.

A gunman believed to be a member of the Basque separatist group ETA trailed the two victims as they left a bar late Friday in the old quarter of the city, then fired at their backs from close range, said the spokesman, who following custom was not identified.

Asia

Democracy encouraged: British Foreign Office Minister Francis Maude said Saturday he believes the people of Hong Kong — which reverts to Chinese sovereignty in 1997 — should take advantage now of the growing democracy in the British colony.

Speaking to reporters on his arrival from London for a five-day visit, Maude also said Britain and China have a duty to promote and protect the territory's stability and prosperity.

Maude, the British government's minister responsible for Hong Kong, said he would discuss with Hong Kong officials plans for the territory's first direct elections to be held next year. (AP)

Contemplating suicide: Over one third of people who cause fatal traffic accidents consider committing suicide, according to a survey released Saturday.

The survey, conducted recently, found that 35 of 90 people who caused fatal accidents said feelings of guilt made them contemplate suicide.

The survey also found that 19 of the respondents were either forced or pressured to quit their jobs, or had their salaries cut. (Kuna)

371 women arrested: Police have arrested 371 women, including 120 foreigners, for suspected involvement in vice in east Malaysian state of Sarawak in the last three months.

Filipinos were the largest group of foreigners arrested, state police chief ACP Eban Awang Ioni said today.

The rest were 18 Indonesians, five Thais, three Taiwanese and two Macanans. (Kuna)

Pingu is fed

A ten-day old penguin named 'Pingu' is fed with the help of a syringe at Hamburg's zoo. Pingu is one of the first penguins raised by hand at the zoo and weighs 172 grammes. (Reuters wirephoto)

Heavy sentences in Tahiti: A defence lawyer wept in a Tahiti court on Thursday after 24 inhabitants of a South Pacific atoll were convicted of killing six fellow islanders in a hysterical "hunt for demons."

Francois Mauati, considered the ringleader of the 1987 exorcism which engulfed the tropical island of Faaite, was sentenced to 14 years imprisonment. Lesser sentences were handed down to the 23 others.

A team of six defence lawyers had pleaded for acquittal on grounds of collective insanity, saying the atoll, known as a "little bit of paradise," had gone mad with fear after a self-styled priestess predicted the end of the world. (Reuters)

Two Soviets reported dead: Two Soviet visitors were reported dead Friday, including a crew member of an Aeroflot jetliner that made its maiden flight last week on a new route between the two countries.

Three other Aeroflot crewmen also remained hospitalized in stable condition after complaining of stomach pains. The four crewmen showed signs of having drunk industrial methyl alcohol, according to Dr Hong Chang-Gi, who treated them. (AP)

Earthquake recorded: An intense earthquake was recorded Friday night off the east coast of the Marianas Islands, the Hong Kong observatory reported.

It was the second major quake reported in the area of the Pacific islands in as many days.

An observatory statement said the quake had a magnitude estimated at 3.8 on the Richter scale. It was centred off the east coast of the Marianas about 700 kms (434 miles) northeast of Guam. (AP)

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Court rejects UK request to extradite IRA-man

DUBLIN, Ireland, April 7, (AP) — The supreme court has rejected a British request to extradite an IRA supporter and former legislator, Owen Carron, on a firearms charge, ruling the offense was politically inspired.

Britain's Northern Ireland Secretary Peter Brooke, who was in Dublin by coincidence for official talks, told reporters, "we are greatly disturbed."

The decision cast a new shadow over Anglo-Irish relations, exacerbating a long dispute about extradition of Irish Republican Army suspects.

Carron, 37, a former member of the British Parliament for the outlawed IRA's political front, Sinn Fein, left the court surrounded by cheering supporters.

"I'm delighted," the bearded former schoolteacher declared before being driven away in brilliant spring sunshine.

In Belfast, capital of Northern Ireland, the British authorities said the unanimous ruling by the five-judge court was "most worrying."

"We cannot accept that acts of terrorism which put people's lives at risk... are in any way political," the Northern Ireland office added in a statement.

The ruling came three weeks after the Irish supreme court freed two IRA men who had escaped from jail in Northern Ireland saying there was a risk they would be beaten up by prison guards if they were extradited. Both men were serving 18-year terms on terrorism convictions.

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Documents for the tender can be obtained from the present Egyptair office located in Safat Square — Al Maseel Souk — Mezzanine — Abdulla Al Mubarak St. — beside the Science Museum.

The Tender Book's fee is KD.50.00.

Date for opening the application offers is Tuesday, May 1, 1990 at 12 noon.

Offers should be submitted in closed envelopes at the present Egyptair premises.

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- The company foundation documents.
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- The financial position of the company through an authorized bank's letter.
- A photocopy of the licence for practising contracting works in Kuwait.

EGYPTAIR EGYPTAIR EGYPTAIR

KUWAIT ... GULF

Petrochemical complex may cost more: expert

Kuwaiti exports to be supported

A WELL known economic expert has said that the petrochemical complex in Kuwait may cost about \$3 billion although costs of the project has been estimated at about KD600 million (about \$2 billion). This cost is expected to increase by 50 per cent, the expert said.

The complex will be financed by local investors and expected to start its production in 1994. He added that Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa wants the complex to start working as soon as possible because it will play an important role in supporting petrochemical industries.

He hoped that the project will be offered in a tender shortly for international companies. The project aims at supporting the exports of Kuwaiti petrochemical products.

Kuwait is expected to establish and

build specialised petrochemical factories in different areas and total costs of these factories may increase to KD4 billion. Kuwait is expected to occupy the third position among producers of petrochemicals in the world after building factories of the complex, he said.

Commodity price hikes continue unabated

THE price issue during the holy month of Ramadan has gripped the minds of the public in the diwanis, and this resulted in the Kuwait cabinet debating the issue in its recent session and authorising the Minister of Commerce and Industry to follow up the matter and to provide the cabinet with a relevant report and solutions to keep the local market stable. Although, twelve days have elapsed since Ramadan prices of consumer goods still remain high.

To highlight this issue, a local daily polled the opinion of some citizens.

Salah Al Ghanam, a government employee, commented that the prices during Ramadan had significantly increased. Prices of tomatoes which had been selling at five hundred fils a carton before the holy month is now sold at about KD3. He blamed the Consumer Protection Department at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Kuwait Municipality for not surmounting this phenomenon. He pointed out that such a hike was unwarranted and the people have not been given specific reasons from any official which would justify the hike.

He added that prices were fluctuating not only in the vegetable market, but also in the co-operative societies.

He further stated that he recently purchased a small coffee grinder from Sulabikhat Co-operative Society at KD three and he noted that the same was sold at Al Ardya Co-operative Society at KD3.800.

Mamdouh Muteb, commented that the price hikes began, since the adjustment was made in the government employees social allowances. He pointed out that the price of each carton of eggs was increased from 650 fils to KD1 and a packet of tea from 915 fils to 990 fils. He criticised the fact that no strict measures had been taken by the authorities concerned so far, and if these measures were taken following the increase of social allowance the price hikes would never have taken place.

Mohammed Mussaed, said, although people are under the impression that the Shuwalh heaped wholesale market is cheaper, this market as well has been affected by hectic price increases.

He pointed out that all the consumer goods which are necessary during Ramadan have become expensive. He added that the prices of some goods had been increased by 50 per cent while some others were doubled.

He called on the authorities concerned to counter the manipulation of prices by some merchants and suppliers.

He commented that the price of a dozen bananas has been increased from 400 fils to 900 fils while each carton has been increased from KD2.500 to KD3.500.

Kuwait participates in IPU conference

WASHINGTON, April 7, (Kuna): Kuwait, represented by Kuwait's pilots and aircrafts engineers association, is taking part in the 45th annual conference of the International Pilots Union (IPU) due to start here today.

Engineer Ayed Al Shmailan, member of the Kuwaiti delegation to the conference, told Kuna that the conference will discuss a number of issues related to aviation safety and security.

Most important issues to be examined by the five-day conference are adoption of a unified system for combating sky terrorism, the use of sophisticated equipment to prevent the smuggling of dangerous and prohibited materials into airplanes and airports security, Shmailan said.

He added that the gathering, which 162 international aviation and pilots associations are participating in, will discuss several studies and recommendations among them two Kuwaiti studies on upgrading aviation security and safety and means of negotiations with airline hijackers.



Consideration of Kuwaiti doctors

DR Nael Al Naqeb, undersecretary of the Public Health Ministry has stressed at a symposium recently held by the Kuwait Medical Society to discuss the "Operational Situation of the Kuwait Doctor" the need for a fair reconsideration of retired Kuwaiti doctors.

The director of the Sabah medical area Dr Salah Al Atiqi than said that the improvement of the operational situation of Kuwaiti doctors has been a major obsession of the area and several contacts have been made with the Civil Service Commission in this connection and also with the Social Security Establishment in which we indicated that the pension offered to retired Kuwaiti doctors is not adequate and could not secure a decent life for

these doctors who had long served in their line of duty.

Dr Nael Al Naqeb then called the society to arrange for a meeting with the officials at the Social Security Establishment and seek to present the situation to HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister in order to reach effective solution to this problem.

Dr Ahmad Al Ayyaf said that it was imperative to adopt tangible recommendations to achieve something, pointing out that the allowances endorsed for doctors were different from those offered to lawyers, although the salaries of doctors were not sufficient, as the allowances were aimed at improving the situation of many doctors.

Co-op union aiming to lower prices

THE chairman of the Union of Co-operative Societies Saad Al Sawaraj commented on the increase of prices of tomato paste at co-operative societies which is more expensive than at private markets and shops by saying that union did not price this kind of tomato paste.

Control

The union allows every co-operative society to buy from controlling the item. He denied that this kind of tomato paste is priced by the union. However there are some other qualities of tomato paste that are priced. He added that 10 per cent of margin on the commodities is considered a reasonable limit of profits for co-operative societies. But the board of every co-operative has the right to reduce this percentage.

It also has the right to sell commodities at cost price. He described the difference in prices

among co-operatives as marginal.

The items that are priced by the union are subjected to its control and all co-operatives are required to abide by these prices otherwise they will be subjected to punishment. He added that the union aims at keeping prices of commodities stable, to prevent monopolies and the non-justified hike in prices. Sawaraj appealed to customers of co-operatives to notify the union if they find a major difference in prices of commodities that are priced by the union and subject to its control in order to take the legal action again to the violating co-operatives.

He hoped that relevant offices can grant more authority to the union to have the freedom of direct import that will ensure many items at reasonable prices to consumers.

Sawaraj also said that HH the Crown Prince and Prime Mini-

ster Sheikh Saad Al Abdulla gave more support to the co-operation movement. He added that the premier understood the view point of the union on the importance of allowing unions to take part in discussions on the new law of co-operation that is expected to be issued to control the work of co-operative unions. He also praised the statement of the minister of social affairs and labour about the ability to set up a joint committee from the ministry and representatives of the union to study the new draft law and amendments on the present law that was issued in 1979.

HH the Crown Prince ordered to return the draft law to the committee for further study although the draft law was completed by officials of the ministry of social affairs and raised to the Fatwa & Legislations Department. The ministry completed the draft law without referring to the union.

Flocks to return to Middle East

THE Soviet floating eye hospital, Flocks, is to return to the Middle East next winter for a second tour of duty.

Operations on board the 10,000 tonne vessel the Peter Permy, which is currently berthed in Jebel Ali near Dubai, ended April 6, but diagnostics will continue for a further week.

"The ship will leave Dubai at the end of this month," said a Flocks management spokes-

woman, "but we will definitely return sometime in October for a further six months stay."

Jebel Ali was chosen as the hospital ship's first operational port of call outside of the Eastern bloc because of the unprecedented demand from Middle East patients for Soviet eye surgery.

"The demand for our techniques from this region is still running at a high level and that has awayed our decision to

return," the spokeswoman added.

Flocks arrived in Dubai last October and by the end of March some 12,831 patients visited the ship to have eye ailments diagnosed — more than a quarter have since undergone surgery in the onboard multi-station operating theatre.

Kuwait a pioneer in illiteracy eradication

KUWAIT is one of the pioneering countries in illiteracy eradication and in the field of application of modern educational programmes, a local daily quoted educational and diplomatic sources as saying.

The sources disclosed that the World Bank had decided to double the loans allocated for financing of the educational programmes to borrowing countries, clarifying that the bank will extend loans of about US\$1.5 billion during the forthcoming three years.

The sources quoted the president of the World Bank as confirming the bank's keenness to spread education throughout the world under a slogan "Education For All". It added that the bank aims at extending the necessary loans to the relevant countries for meeting its requirements in the field of basic education.

Disbursement

Meanwhile, sources quoted the Chairman of Asian Development Bank (ADB) as saying that his institution will disburse about USD one billion to help finance the education sector in the Asian and Pacific countries.

On the other hand, the director of administration at United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) William Draper has called for allocation US\$ five billion per annum over the current decade to be utilised for educational purposes in order to eradicate illiteracy by 2000 AD.

He commented that although the proposed amount seems to be tremendous, it represents the equivalent of the military expenditure for two days only in the industrial countries and one week in the developing countries.

He said that the proposed amount equals two per cent of the amounts due to be paid annually by the developing countries in settling of its debts.

Oman's cautious policies all add up, one might think, to a successful recipe that requires no adjustment, but Omanis talk incessantly about "diversification", "opening up" and what

Role of Reform Society praised

CHAIRMAN of the Social Reform Society, Abdullah Al Mutawa praised the role played by the society locally and throughout the Islamic world. Interviewed by a local daily he said that zakat and donations committees attached to the society encourages Muslims to achieve social solidarity. He added that a total of 364 families receive financial assistance from the ten committees attached to the society. These committees include the main committee at the society headquarters, the Abdullah Al Salem Committee, and other committees at Hamdhan, Khalidiya, Bayan, Dasya, Salmiya, Nuzha, Failaka, Jahra, and Doha.

He indicated that strong ties link these committees with Kuwait Zakat House for the exchange of information and that the society has unified the assistance schedule and areas distribution among the ten committees. He indicated that expenditure for the ten committees reached KD463,718.

Charity

A special committee consisting of a chairman and six members appointed by the society board of directors took over the responsibilities of reaching the best methods in spreading the message of advice, co-operation and charity among Muslims locally and throughout the Islamic world. Mutawa pointed out that collecting zakat money is the main objective of the society and disclosed that the money is monthly distributed among needy families. He said that financial assistance is given to families directly through society workers in order to take a close look on the families conditions. The committee also holds weekly meetings to view new cases and approve assistance.

Support for European Muslims

KUWAIT, April 7, (Kuna): Head of the Islamic World Committee in Kuwait Abdullah Al Atiqi yesterday said that the committee had started its project to support Muslims in East Europe.

In a press statement distributed here today, Atiqi said that the committee targets repairing old mosques and Islamic schools.

He explained that the committee, which was established in 1982, further targets repairing old mosques, building new ones and along with modern Islamic centres and printing Holy Quran and Islamic books in various languages and publishing booklets on situation and needs of Muslims in various world areas.

Meet a neighbour

From professional soldier to devoted statesman

By Yakub Razaque
Arab Times staff



Abdul Razzak Al Essaid

IT takes a special class of people to work for an organisation like the United Nations. Over the years a number of exceptionally talented and dedicated human beings have contributed in helping to develop and promote the noble work of this unique world institution. The United Nations and its vast network of specialised agencies have been fortunate to have the services of unique individuals from different professions. Traditionally the bulk of UN employees have been civilians ranging from educationalists, doctors, diplomats, lawyers, industrialists among others.

However, it is rare to see a professional soldier tender his services to this great organisation and its numerous humanitarian causes. It is even more remarkable to see an army officer, who has distinguished himself in a number of battles in different regions, to embark on a career to serve the general well-being and prosperity of his fellow human beings through the office of a United Nations agency. It is indeed a tribute to the basic goodness of mankind and triumph of human faith in its survival to see an individual first trained to kill and later to devote his time and efforts to a worthy cause by helping homeless and stateless men, women and children throughout the world in their struggle for survival.

It takes a lot of courage for someone, who has spent the first half of his career in the killing fields, to later devote the rest of his lifetime to alleviate the misery and suffering of some people deprived of their basic rights to live in peace in their own soil. More courage is needed in fact to save lives than to take them.

Softspoken

One such man is Abdul Razzak Essaid. This Tunisian war hero today looks anything but a soldier. Talking to the Arab Times in an exclusive interview about his life and work, Essaid comes out instead as a soft-spoken, humble and sensitive gentleman. For indeed one could easily mistake him for an academic for his excellent knowledge of world affairs particularly relating to the human angle.

As in the case of most distinguished individuals throughout history, Essaid's rise to his present position as the Middle East representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), based in Bahrain, has materialised by a stroke of fate, totally unexpected and unplanned.

Essaid started his career as a soldier in the Tunisian army after leaving school. After a stint in the Tunisian Army College, he went to France and trained in the prestigious French Military Academy at St Cyr. He recalled with pride his classmates and fellow officers both in the Tunisian Army College and at St Cyr, the president of Tunisia and a foreign minister.

"I am very happy and proud to say that we were the first batch of army officers from Tunisia to have graduated from St Cyr. We were known as the Bourguiba group and participated in our country's independence from France in October 1956," said Essaid.

The dashing young officer

along with his peers formed the nucleus of independent Tunisia's first army. Further training stints took him to France, West Germany and the United States. In 1960 Essaid distinguished himself in the Belgian Congo uprising and was awarded the coveted "Blue Helmet". In 1963 the future of the young war hero had other plans in store for him. After obtaining a degree in international relations in the UN, Essaid did not wish to pursue his military ambition any further, but instead his career changed direction towards and entirely new field.

In 1972 while working as the army liaison officer, Essaid attended an international seminar of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. His participation and work in the seminar was noted and appreciated by the secretary general of those organisations who obtained his services for one year. Essaid responded to this challenge with such enthusiasm and commitment that he found himself leading delegations of the International Red Cross between 1972-74 to such places as Paris, South Vietnam and USA.

"This I believe is one of the most rewarding periods of my work. The refugees situation in Vietnam by now made a profound impact in me personally. I was inwardly shattered to see the suffering of a large number of South Vietnamese civilians. It made me realise about the extent of damage that war could do to human lives and made up my mind to do my part in this struggle to help and save my fellow beings," commented Essaid.

Appreciation

Essaid's work during this period with the International Red Cross was greatly appreciated and won the hearts of a number of prominent people. Through the "discreet recommendation" of the then Deputy High Commissioner of UNHCR, this ex-Tunisian army officer was chosen to head the regional office of UNHCR in the Middle East.

This was the beginning of a long and eventful career for Essaid as the regional chief of a vital UN agency office. Today

his work carries responsibilities for about three-quarters of the world's 13 million refugees.

"As an ex-soldier I can see and understand the extent of what wars and the brutal use of armaments can do to millions of innocent people around the world. Most of the world's conflicts are internal affairs in certain countries. These conflicts are mainly ideologically and politically induced. The victims are civilians for no fault of theirs. It is the ultimate tragedy to see a peace loving individual getting killed or forced to flee his home and country," explained Essaid.

According to the Middle East chief of UNHCR, one of the main reasons is the risk of conflicts world-wide in due to the excessive increase in both the sale and use of armaments. Only by stopping and stockpiling armaments by every country can there be any real hope," he added.

"The only way we can stop or reduce wars is to eradicate the arms business on a global scale. In this respect the super powers have a great moral duty. Otherwise I see no guarantee that there will be no refugees in the world. I believe there should be some genuine concerted efforts by the world community to introduce a legislation to ban manufacture and sale of armaments," stressed Essaid.

Recognition

Abdul Razzak Essaid, who still cuts a handsome figure in his early fifties, regards his proudest moment in his career with the United Nations when in 1984 the UNHCR received for the second time the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of its humanitarian work.

"I am satisfied with what I have achieved so far in my career, but it is still a long way to go. When I see a refugee able to contact his family even through a letter after many years it is a sense of great achievement for me. I get many letters from people thanking me for enabling them to get in touch with their long lost family. It makes me very happy. Even in the course of my whole career I am able to resettle one homeless and stateless person and reunite him with his family I will consider that my life's work has not been in vain," said Essaid.

Omanisation on the way

Oman prepares to sweep its own streets

THE Anglophile Sultan Qaboos Bin Said Al Said of Oman runs his country with a British sort of military efficiency which is not apparent in Britain itself. Men with brooms keep the main roads immaculately clean, unsightly air conditioners and water tanks poking out of Muscat's houses are tastefully disguised by regulation wooden screens, and policemen are treated with profound respect.

As if this were not enough, the prudently-managed Omani economy — after a combination of spending cuts, foreign borrowing and reserve draw downs — is emerging in good shape from the recession caused by the oil price crash of 1986. Inflation is close to zero, debt service as a proportion of exports is between 15 and 20 per cent and reserves are once again being replenished from oil revenues. With the oil price firm, last year's projected budget deficit has disappeared and external debt is expected to start decreasing.

Oman's cautious policies all add up, one might think, to a successful recipe that requires no adjustment, but Omanis talk incessantly about "diversification", "opening up" and what

Mr Abdul Aziz Bin Mohammed al-Rawas, the information minister, calls "a new look for the 1990s".

The problems may be invisible, but the Sultan is aware that they are only just over the horizon: first, Oman has until now depended on oil for its well-being and does not have large oil or gas reserves; second, the men sweeping the dust off the roads are imported Indian labourers who must eventually be replaced by the fast growing Omani population of 1.3m if unemployment is to be avoided.

This second problem is shared by all the Arab Gulf states, and they have all attempted to persuade their own pampered citizens to replace foreigners, even in menial jobs. In Kuwait, it is called Kuwaitisation; in Oman, Omanisation. "This must include simple manual employment," said Sultan Qaboos in a recent speech to mark Oman's national day and his 49th birthday. "We must tolerate no obstacles to achieving these objectives."

Oman has several advantages in the current period of transition, including an early start in analysing potential difficulties, a trading and mining history

which predates the discovery of oil by several millennia, and an intensive programme of exploration and development to prolong its oil and gas output into the 21st century.

No-one, however, is underestimating the task ahead. Even if the economy grows at the predicted four per cent this year, there are unlikely to be more than 3,000 jobs for the country's 17,000 school leavers, and half the population is still under 15. Expatriates make up two-fifths of the labour force, cost US \$1b in remittances each year, and have actually increased in number in the private sector to more than 280,000 over the past few months.

Having rapidly established a modern infrastructure in the 20 years since Qaboos overthrew his father, Oman is now trying to deal with the fact that more than 90 per cent of its export earnings come from oil and that agriculture and industry together account for only a minute proportion of gross domestic product.

For the next 10 years or so objective is to increase investment in these productive sectors so that their contribution to GDP grows at an annual rate of

10 to 11 per cent," says Mr Mohammed Bin Musa Al Yousef, who is responsible for capital spending.

To this end the sultanate has signalled its intention to be more flexible about the rules restricting foreign investment. "We say there is no need to insist on a 51 per cent Omani majority stake. It can be less if it's in the country's interest," says Mr Al Yousef.

Oman has also subsidised local private sector investments and promoted joint stock companies in an effort to mobilise Omani savings (a stock market opened in Muscat last year), as well as commissioning a series of feasibility studies on the economy.

Omani industry, centred on the light industrial area at Rusayl near Muscat, has already registered some small export successes, mainly in the Gulf, with products ranging from detergents and biscuits to abrasives and paints.

Iran for example, is buying some \$350,000 of black cloth for women's veils from Omani textile Mills, and Oman's even-handed regional foreign policy may contribute to a further expansion of trade with Tehran. There are also plans to increase exploitation of

Oman minerals, which include copper and marble.

Subsistence agriculture provides a livelihood for two thirds of the local population but remains severely constrained by water shortages and increasing water salinity in the Batinah, the main farming area on the coastal plain.

Fishing is a much more hopeful sector. "Three years ago our fish exports were worth only 5m Omani riyals (\$3.5m), but last year the figures were OR21m," says Mr Maqbool Bin Ali Sultan, president of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Tourism, another emerging phenomenon in the hitherto closed societies of the Gulf, is also being promoted by the Omani authorities, although the government remains cautious about any rapid expansion of the trade because of the limited tourist infrastructure and the Islamic sensitivities of the population: elderly Swiss couples are the preferred customers.

Diversification and Omanisation are Oman's obsessions, the Muscat "buzz words" for 1990. Tourism, fish, and veils for Iran are small beginnings, but a beginning none the less. Financial Times

Shellfish susceptible to toxic pollutants

Traces of insecticides found in local fish

FISH in the Gulf are exposed to various pollutants and those species of fish generally known to frequent the bottom of the oceans, such as shells and oysters are more susceptible to various forms of accumulation of toxicity.

Speaking on the issue, the director of the Marine Culture Department at

Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, Dr Mohammed Serf said that heavy metals, such as lead, mercury, copper, arsenic and metals have a tendency to build up in the tissues of these bottom-line fishes. Further, the larger predators in devouring these contaminated fishes, tend to pass on toxic wastes to humans

when they are consumed.

Samples

The officials said that the Department of Environmental Sciences is currently studying the existing concentrations of heavy metals in a number of sea animals. Lab tests will be conducted on samples of

fish taken from the local market and will be basically tested for pollutants accumulated in the liver, kidneys and spleen of the animals. He said that lab tests have indicated that traces of insecticides, and oil have been found which have claimed to be discarded by passing ships and tankers.

Kuwait to set up fund for Hungary

KUWAIT, April 7. (Reuters): Kuwait is to set up a \$100 million fund for investment in Hungary. Hungarian Finance Minister Laszlo Bekesi was quoted as saying.

A Kuwaiti daily also quoted Bekesi as saying the two countries would establish several joint companies. He gave no details.

Oil producer Kuwait is seeking investment opportunities in several East European states, swept by democratic change last year.

Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Kbalifa Al Sabah visited Budapest last month and had talks with industry minister Ferenc Horvath on prospects for investment in refining and marketing.

Kuwaiti officials have also visited other East European states in recent weeks to explore their markets, which have lost much of their subsidised Soviet oil supplies.

Bekesi also told the paper that Hungary had agreed to reschedule Iraqi debts, Iraq would repay all debts in the coming three years in twice-yearly instalments, he said, without giving details.

KOTC to get 4 new tankers

KUWAIT, April 7. (Kuna): Chairman and Managing Director of Kuwait Oil Tanker Company Abdul Fatah Al Badr was quoted here as affirming that Kuwait is keen to enlarge its fleet according to plans envisaged since the company was set up.

He told a local daily in a statement published today that Kuwait will receive four tankers, contracted for delivery at the beginning of 1992.

The four vessels, being built by South Korean and Japanese shipbuilders, include two very large tankers for crude oil with the capacity of 280,000 tons each.

The other two, Badr added, are designed to lift liquefied petroleum gas with a capacity of 75,000 cubic metres each.

Badr estimated the cost of the four vessels at \$295 million and said they are due to be delivered on time.

NEWS IN BRIEF

\$73,000 donated
JEDDAH, April 7. (Kuna): Kuwait has donated to the Islamic Society in Canada \$73,000 for the society's mosque project, the International Islamic News Agency (IINA) said yesterday.

IINA also said that most Islamic societies had offered similar donations which found appreciation of Muslims in the cities of Halton and Toronto.

Canadian Muslims expressed their thanks and appreciation to Kuwait for the donation.

No taxes
KUWAIT, April 7. (Kuna): The government is not planning to impose new taxes and is instead considering broadening the scope of services to the public with special attention to the limited income segment, a local Arabic daily reported today.

Quoting a "well-informed" source the daily said an earlier plan to levy taxes had been shelved and then scrapped altogether, as the government is now seeking to elevate the living standards of its citizens.

The unnamed source said the few duties the government is collecting at present are spent for improving public services.

He said the government is trying to squeeze public spending by chipping away at high-cost budget items.



Service medals

The director of the General Administration of Execution of Sentences and Jails Col Fahad Al Yaseen gave away service medals to a number of officers and policemen at the administration on behalf of Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah. The ceremony was attended by a number of senior officers of the administration.

Saudi economic growth unprecedented: Masood

Profitable use of oil revenues

Economic Diversification and Development in Saudi Arabia by Rashid Masood, Popular Prakashan, Bombay, India, 1989. Pp 127. Price: Rs 150 (About \$15).

By Khalid Hasan

VIENNA, April 7. (Opecna): This short study on Saudi Arabia's bid for economic diversification leading to self-sustaining growth is well documented — though the statistics do not go beyond 1984-85 — but more than that, it is extremely well written. The brevity of the exercise also means that the focus is sharp and critical, supported by a large number of statistical tables and references.

The author, an Indian academic associated with the National Institute of Science, Technology and Development Studies in New Delhi, examines post-1973 Saudi industrial effort, founded on its vast hydrocarbon base, and comes to the conclusion that the kingdom not only took the right strategic decision, but adopted the right approach and it is well on its way to the achievement of the objective it had set itself.

Writes Rashid Masood: "Saudi Arabia has succeeded in diversifying and restructuring its economy that will push it towards self-sustained growth. The rapid pace of development... has hardly any parallel in the world industrial history."

The "turning point" in Saudi Arabia's industrial history came following the 1973-74 Opec price adjustment which sent oil revenues soaring. The Saudi government made much more profitable use of the transformed situation than some of the countries similarly placed. It decided that a large percentage of the newly-generated revenues should be employed in a manner that would "reduce the country's overwhelming dependence on oil exports and establish a diversified economy to attain self-sustained growth before the oil resources get exhausted."

Sensible
The kingdom could have done one of two things: leave industrialisation entirely in the hands of foreign companies and governments, or enter into arrangements that would eventually lead to the development of a technological base through trained local manpower and assimilated technology and know-how. The kingdom, quite sensibly, opted for the latter course.

The kingdom's planners also took steps to move towards downstream activities in order to break the oil industry's vertical integration pattern. However, the inherent risk of this policy was that the economy may become integrated to the Western economic system. So far most indicators lead to the conclusion that this has not happened and the kingdom has managed both to preserve its sovereign economic independence and to give its foreign partners a genuine sense of participation.

Barriers

The Saudi development strategy, according to the author, has been determined by the "nature of the endowment factor", namely hydrocarbons. This has led to the formation of capital-intensive, labour-saving and export-oriented industries. Hence the kingdom's hydrocarbon-based range of such enterprises as oil refineries, fertiliser and petrochemical plants and steel and aluminium smelting facilities which all use heavy amounts of oil and natural gas as feedstock, but are "characterised by economies of scale as well as a high degree of vertical integration."

However, as more and more Saudi downstream capacity has come onstream, it has become apparent that the Western European market economy states are not willing to allow unhindered access to Saudi petrochemical exports. The Gulf region cannot

absorb Saudi production, while in Europe trade and tariff barriers have been going up rather than down. Talks have been in progress between the European Community (EC) and the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) for many years now, but so far the results have been disappointing. With Eastern Europe opening up, the chances of a breakthrough appear to be even more remote.

It has been said that before investing billions of dollars, Saudi Arabia should have fully investigated the marketing aspects which might have led to the ambitious scale of the plans being tailored more realistically. While at first glance, such criticism may seem logical, on second thought it is not so. Saudi Arabia moved boldly and with confidence into the industrialisation of the kingdom. If access to Saudi products in Europe is being restricted, the onus is on those who preach the gospel of market economy and practice exactly its opposite when the time comes to match their professions with their policies. Saudi Arabia is the sinners against not the other way round, as is sometimes implied.

The Saudi attitude, as the book repeatedly stresses, has been dynamic and forthright. The decision to "go for the big one" was correct and will be vindicated. Just too much effort and too much money has gone into these huge enterprises to allow temporary difficulties to dictate a change of course. If this is indeed an interdependent world, as developing countries are constantly told, then surely the Saudi initiative deserves to succeed.

While extolling the effort that has gone into the creation of the billions of dollars worth Saudi downstream sector, Masood points out that the Saudi petrochemical industry is still dependent on industrialised countries for know-how, skilled managerial expertise, technical consultancy and services, machinery and equipment and, last but not least, marketing of products.

Dependence

According to the author: "The technological dependence on developed countries can only be reduced by creating a more productive ethos, namely providing facilities for research and development (RD) and creating a scientific consciousness among the masses."

He admits that it cannot be "done overnight," maintaining that "it generally requires 40 years for a country to develop its RD to the point of making an impact on national development." He asserts that the Saudi government is aware of the importance and necessity of research and "the efforts made for the upgradation of the technological base and development of new skills and direction of RD efforts towards innovation and of products and persons likely to bring the desired benefits to the Saudi economy."

The author says that while it may take time to "know with certainty" to what extent the kingdom has succeeded in its industrialisation effort, "which would eventually lead to self-sustained growth. Another point highlighted by the author is that the technology being imported by the Saudis is available against cash with a large number of foreign companies, which means that the kingdom is not dependent entirely on one source or company."

The author points out that the "success of Saudi Arabia in acquiring necessary capability in various fields of industrialisation, including infrastructure development, is borne out by the fact that the oil concessions and other incentive given to foreign companies are likely to be gradually withdrawn."

A word about some other aspects of this able study. The bibliography and the referencing is extensive and should be most valuable to anyone studying Saudi Arabia and the Gulf region. As noted earlier, the statistics do not go beyond 1984-85, which means that the gestation period of the book was long, the gap between the cut-off point of the research and publication being almost five years.

Fund-raiser at Khalifa School on April 9

By Fathima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

THE Khalifa School, Kuwait, a specialised institute for the education for disabled children, will hold their monthly fund-raiser on Monday, April 9, at the school premises.

The school, set up two years ago by a group of caring Kuwaiti women, is a unique place where one-on-one training is given to children who need specialised care and education which cannot be provided at regular schools. The school also offers two other programmes, one to train parents and another to help children out of school. Although their in-house enrolment is 35, they take care of over 300 children out of school.

Another 100 children are on the waiting list to join the school. Due to shortage of funds, they have not been able to enrol them.

Qirgiz'an

It has a staff of 40, with some volunteers and a majority on the school's payroll.

The objective of the school is to make itself self-supportive and hold regular monthly bazaars to meet costs.

Monday's bazaar is a Ramadan special to coincide with the Qirgiz'an evening. Ramadan food hampers, dried herbs, Kashmiri shawls and carpets, used clothing, books and many more items will be on offer. It will be held between 8.30 pm to midnight. The school is located on Taa'won St, Al Bida, next to Regency Palace Hotel.

Mubarak defends Saddam Hussein

Campaign without justification

CAIRO, April 7. (AP): President Hosni Mubarak yesterday said he has the personal assurance of Saddam Hussein that he wants only to defend Iraq and has no aggressive intentions toward Israel.

"The Iraqi President has no intention of going to war at all. Not with Israel and not with Iran," Mubarak said.

"He has spoken with me repeatedly about the peaceful approach. I have absolutely no doubt that he is bent on peace and is not a man of war or a starter of war."

Mubarak had not commented previously on an international furor caused by Hussein's speech last Monday in which he said Iraq has binary chemical weapons and would use to wipe out half of Israel if attacked.

"I regret the current campaign against Iraq which has been escalating without justification," Mubarak told reporters after Friday noon prayers at a military base near the Suez Canal city of Suez. The state-run Middle East News Agency distributed his remarks.

Before Hussein's speech, Iraq already had been at the centre of two recent international rows.

Several people were arrested in London last week on suspicion of trying to smuggle to Iraq triggers for nuclear bombs. Baghdad denied it is has nuclear weapons and said it needed the triggers for other scientific purposes.

On March 15, Iraq's execution of Farzad Bazofi, an Iranian-born, British-based reporter convicted of espionage, also triggered outrage in much of the West.

Mubarak said Hussein's statements about reprisal with chemical weapons were prompted by "the campaign against him that he regarded as pressure or threat." He said Hussein has told him as much since his speech last Monday.

Campaign

The Egyptian President said the United States joined in the anti-Iraq campaign, although he praised President George Bush for "very moderate and balanced" statements.

Egypt is aligned with Iraq in the Arab Co-operation Council, which also includes Jordan and North Yemen. It was founded in February last year as an economic grouping but frequently has delved in Arab politics.

Drivers' licences for expatriates suspended

New issues only after Eid

THE General Traffic Department has suspended the issuance of driving licences (learners licences) for all expatriates including changing foreign driving licences for a Kuwaiti document.

However, according to Assistant Director of the General Traffic Department (GTD), Col Salem Al Roumi, the suspension will remain valid throughout the Holy Month of Ramadan, and the issuance of new Istimaras and change of foreign driving licences will be resumed soon after the Eid Al Fitr holidays, around the beginning of May.

The official stressed that the categories of expatriates who are entitled to obtain Istimaras remain the same as previously published and no additional changes have been introduced.

Roumi said that the issuance of any new Istimaras have now been assigned as the responsibility of the directors of the four



Col Roumi

traffic departments in the four governorates. According to the new orders, the assistants of the directors are not empowered to issue Istimaras without the official signature of the director.

The official further disclosed that the directors have been instructed to be very cautious in

issuing new Istimaras. These new regulations have been issued to ensure that no fraud can be perpetrated in the issuance of licences.

Meanwhile, the main accused in the recent racket of faking Istimaras, which was busted a few days ago is being held in the military jail at the Nuzha Area pending investigation. The accused holds the rank of colonel and wide-range investigations are being conducted to determine the number of fake Istimaras issued and also to apprehend other suspects involved in the scam.

Well informed sources affirmed that the General Traffic Department officials have provided the investigation authorities with all necessary details and have a list of all those who paid between KD500 to KD1,000 for obtaining these fake Istimaras.

Trade surplus \$5.5bn

UAE, India to promote ties

NEW DELHI, April 7. (Opecna): The United Arab Emirates Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Dr Mana Saeed Otaiba held talks here with Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh on issues of common interest.

In a first high level contact with the premier's new government in India, Otaiba conveyed a message from the UAE President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan to the Indian head of government.

He apprised the Indian leader on progress made so far in furthering mutual ties between the two countries as well as developments of interest in the Middle East.

Otaiba also held talks with the Indian Petroleum and Chemicals Minister M.F. Gurupadaswamy on the possibility of greater mutual co-operation, particularly in the oil and gas sectors.

He welcomed and Indian proposal for joint ventures in the oil sector and said that there was ample scope for the two countries to enlarge their areas of co-operation.

Meanwhile, a report on UAE trade registered a trade surplus of \$5.5 billion last year, a \$2.7 per cent increase over 1988.

The report issued by the Planning Ministry revealed that increased exports of goods in 1989 fetched \$15.6 billion against imports worth \$10.1 billion.

"The year of 1989 saw an upturn in several sectors in the UAE," commented the report.

Oman to set up mining company

NICOSIA, April 7. (Reuters): Oman plans to set up a privately owned company to mine copper, chrome and other minerals, the Omani petroleum and minerals under-secretary said in an interview published recently.

"A private company is planned as experience around the world has shown the private sector is more suitable for such an investment," Salem bin Mohammed bin Shaaban told an Arabic newspaper.

"We intend to prepare... qualified Omanis and provide the company with... equipment making it independent and ensuring the existence of the mining industry for over 100 years," he added.

Oman's economy is dominated by the state sector but the government has said it wants private enterprise to play a bigger role. Surveys show Oman has large amounts of minerals. Shaaban said in the interview carried by the Omani News Agency and monitored in Cyprus.

He said the Sultanate, whose main export is oil, already produced copper and would soon produce chrome.

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Thought for today

AN HONEST man is the noblest work of God — Alexander Pope, English poet (1688-1744).

Nato project

Obsolete plan still on table

WASHINGTON, JAP: In private, US officials acknowledged long ago that there is no realistic prospect for the deployment of new short-range nuclear missiles in Germany. But the project remains on the table, a devalued bargaining chip in arms control talks abroad and budget negotiations at home.

In both settings, rival negotiators know that the modernized missile plan is obsolete. The West Germans didn't want nuclear missiles on their soil aimed at other Germans even when the presumed targets were in communist territory. And a unified Germany is likely to have even less desire for the weapons.

On a redrawn, post-cold war political map, the missiles would not even have logical targets. But the project remains in the budget, at \$112 million this year, and a total cost estimated by the administration at \$1.2 billion if it were to be completed.

Weapon

The weapon involved would be a missile called Fohl. Fohl means follow on to lance, a short-range missile now deployed in Germany and four other Nato nations. The lance will be obsolete by the middle of the decade, and the Alliance has been talking about modernization.

The nuclear missiles were deployed to buttress outnumbered Nato troops in the event of a Soviet ground attack into Western Europe. Modernizing that missile force was a contentious issue even before the political upheavals that transformed Eastern Europe toward democracy.

When President George Bush went to his first Nato summit 10 months ago, missile modernization was a problem. Bush proposed sharp cuts in East and West conventional forces, and the Alliance avoided the nuclear missile quandary by putting off a decision on modernization until 1992.

In addition, the 1989 Nato compromise calls for negotiations to reduce the battlefield nuclear missiles — but not to eliminate them — after East-West agreement on reduction of conventional forces. Those cuts have started to take place.

That compromise nearly a year ago avoided an issue that would have been a problem for Chancellor Helmut Kohl in West German parliamentary elections scheduled last year. Anti-nuclear sentiment had been growing in West Germany since the 1987 treaty to scrap intermediate-range missiles.

The pact left the short-range missiles, defined as those with ranges up to 310 miles (500 kilometres), as the only ones in the Nato neighbourhood — and West Germany is the site for almost all of them.

The current force of lance missiles has a range of about 70 miles (21 kilometres). Nato has 88 short-range nuclear missile launchers. The Fohl project is to turn out missiles that could deliver nuclear warheads up to 280 miles (450 kilometres), and 1,000 of the weapons are planned.

But those plans were drafted for use against a communist bloc that has been transformed. New governments in Eastern Europe are pressing for Soviet troop withdrawals. East Germans have elected a new government shaped to hasten the process of reunification.

The Bush administration is said to be considering changes in the plan for new short-range missiles, a topic that will have to be dealt with when Nato defence ministers meet next month in Alberta, Canada.

Israel: uncertainty over next head

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, (UPI): Nothing ever is final in the Israeli political game of bluff and bargaining, and the question remains whether Shimon Peres, Yitzhak Shimon or a dark horse will emerge in this round.

Peres appeared confident enough when he told Israelis he had the support to win a vote of confidence from Israel's Parliament and form a government.

But Peres merely may be holding only a few of the cards he needs to complete his full house, gambling on a hunch more legislators will join him and at the same time increasing the stakes: his leadership of the Labour Party could be one of those stakes.

As the left-wing newspaper Al Hamishmar said rhetorically in its editorial on Thursday, "Is there a government?"

The speech by which Peres announced to the state president his success at setting up a government can be understood perhaps in light of the pressures and threats of the Likud on its partners," Al Hamishmar said.

Mandate

"It is possible that Shimon Peres has another vote in addition to the 60 mandates that he had up until now,

but he still has a lot of loose ends to tie up and to negotiate with different parties" allied with Labour but which want assurances from Peres on his policies, Al Hamishmar wrote.

Peres' veil of secrecy over the membership of a Labour-led coalition and who would support it in the Parliament prompted speculation he only announced he could form a government as a gambit to gain the backing of factions initially opposed to his leadership.

He only needs 61 votes of confidence to sit in the prime minister's office and replace Shamir's transitional government with his own coalition. But the breakdown in Israel's 120-member Parliament, the Knesset, has stood firm at 60-60 during the weeks of intense political haggling.

Most recently, the focus concentrated on a breakaway Likud faction, which way it would vote and at what price. But by perhaps gaining one of those politicians, Peres was threatened with the loss of some of his natural allies from the smaller left-wing parties. They had fussed over the thought of a "defector" within their midst.

From day to day, hour to hour, the Israeli coalition negotiations change.

Security boost in Kurdish area

Turkey to stem rebel violence

NUSAYBIN, Turkey, (Reuters): Turkish security forces patrol the pot-holed streets of this tense southeastern town overlooking the Syrian frontier, part of measures in the region to try to stem growing separatist Kurdish rebel violence.

The predominantly Kurdish town of 80,000 people was the flashpoint three weeks ago for an upsurge in violence and protests after bleak winter months when guerrillas of the Marxist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) traditionally lie low.

"This is a people's movement but our government is not aware," Nusaybin's Kurdish Mayor Muslim Yildirim told Reuters. "We do not want to be treated like second-class people."

"The government says the PKK threatens people in order to take food, water and support. They are mistaken. Believe me or not, some 95 per cent of the people do this willingly," he said.

Suppression

Sait, a 17-year-old youth, said: "They think we are terrorists here. We are not terrorists. We are not armed."

Fifty-nine people have been reported killed in PKK-related violence in the southeast since the beginning of March, compared to 16 during the first quarter of last year.

More than 2,000 people, including civilians and troops, have been killed since mid-1984 when the PKK launched its violent independence campaign in the region near Iran, Iraq and Syria.

Ankara does not recognise Turkey's estimated 10 million Kurds — about one-in-five of the country's total population — as a minority and bans the use of Kurdish as an official language.

The upsurge in violence started with the death of one person during wide-spread protests at the Nusaybin funerals of two PKK guerrillas killed by security forces.

Hayri Kozakcioglu, the civilian regional governor appointed by the government, said there was no collapse in confidence between the government and the people.

"The people's support for the PKK is not growing. There is only a rise in tension triggered by inside and outside disruptive forces," he told Reuters at his headquarters in the regional city of Diyarbakir, 900 km (560 miles) from Ankara.

Attacks

"We expect the rebel attacks to increase in the spring months...we are stepping up security measures," he added.

In the border town of Cizre, 100 km (60 miles) east of Nusaybin, armoured cars and troop-carrying vehicles are on some streets. Civilian traffic between Cizre and Sirnak, to the northeast, is banned for 12 hours each night from six pm.

A 36-hour curfew was clamped on the town after at least four people were killed during mass Kurdish protests following the Nusaybin clashes. Officials indirectly blamed the PKK for the Cizre deaths.

President Turgut Ozal said last week the demon-



"AFTER THE PEACE TREATY IS SIGNED, WE'LL DETERMINE THE BORDERS!"

strations were part of a plan designed to violate Turkey's territorial integrity.

Officials believe the PKK receives at least tacit support from Iran, Iraq and Syria.

"We do not want to separate from the Turkish republic. All we want is affection from the state," said Mayor Yildirim.

Huseyin Kardas, an elderly Kurd in Nusaybin, said in fractured Turkish: "People are in an uprising now. The struggle has been going on for more than 10 years."

"The police are picking up people from homes at night. They question us on the PKK," he added.

"Why do they pester us when we say we are Kurdish while they can proudly say they are Turkish," said the youth said near a fruit bazaar where many people were speaking Kurdish.

Kozakcioglu said: "We are not concerned that more people might want to join this offensive of the PKK."

"Wherever the PKK is there are collaborators and there we must be."

Hong Kong youth politically aware

HONG KONG, (Reuters): At 19 years old, James S. Seem is the epitome of Hong Kong's professional classes — he drives a Porsche sports car, carries a mobile telephone and puts in a 14-hour day helping manage the family business.

He has a lot of responsibility helping run a multi-million-dollar company, but Hong Kong law says he's too young to have a say in the colony's future.

He's too young to vote, and when the first direct elections to the legislature are introduced next year, James and 400,000 other Hong Kong Chinese from the age of 18 to 20 won't be able to take part.

"I find it very frustrating — my father trusts me enough to help run his business. Why can't I have a say in how this place will run?" he says.

Running

"The British now suddenly deem it necessary, about 20 years too late in my view, for local people to have a say in running the place. In Britain and China 18-year-olds can vote. Here, we seem to be stuck in Victorian times."

The British colony reverts to Chinese rule in 1997. The Chinese army's bloody crackdown on the pro-democracy movement in Beijing last June sparked a new political awareness among Hong Kong young people who are now demanding more political voice before the handover.

Political sources say Hong Kong's Executive Council, a body of senior officials and leading citizens who with the governor decide policy is unlikely to lower the voting age from the present 21 years to 18 before next year's elections.

"There's a perception that too many changes — the introduction of direct elections to the legislative council and an increase in the functional constituencies — may be too much for people to handle," said a government source who requested anonymity.

Others disagree. The South China Morning Post newspaper said in a recent editorial the denial of franchise was an insult to young adults under 21.

"Hong Kong will perpetuate the incongruity that

an 18-year-old police officer is considered mature enough to carry a pistol and use it, but not mature enough to exercise his ballot."

Those who want the voting age lowered admit Hong Kong's youth have been apolitical in the past, but say the Chinese government's crushing of the pro-democracy movement changed all that.

Alan Cheung, a 19-year-old student, recalled huge demonstrations in Hong Kong that followed the crackdown in Beijing.

"There were hundreds and thousands of us out on the street," he said. "I remember being there with my friends, crying in the middle of a typhoon rainstorm. We were fighting for our freedom, and that of our brothers and sisters in Beijing."

"How can those old people on Legco (Legislative Council) say we aren't mature enough? We have earned that right."

Cheung said he and his friends felt bitter that Britain had not consulted Hong Kong people on the deal to hand the colony back to China in 1997.

Letters to the editor

Cheating epidemic

SIR: The front page news carried by the agencies on the investigations revealing the epidemic of cheating on standardised tests of GRE (Graduate Record Examination) aimed at gaining entry to the US graduate school programmes is a stupid act carried out in desperation; the students involved in this cheating scam were looking for quick success at such breakthrough pays for the failure of the years and guarantees them a great future as a 'yuppie'. The dream of high incomes, flashy cars, and to land stable jobs, as soon as they are out of the graduate schools has resulted into a real race where every young student aspires to get into well-paid professions mostly in the capital markets and the shortest route they foresee is admission to an Ivy League school.

The basic classical educational system is in dire need of structural changes. The shift of emphasis from acquiring knowledge to reaping quick commercial benefits out of education has led the students to even pass by cheating than to fail with honour where, contrary to this, the contemporary training and thought of student needs to be geared to pass their competitive exams with fairness and honour.

But the high technology, result-oriented society lays emphasis on graduate or post-graduate studies from highly rated academic schools and institutions. Hence, the single object of entering a reputed school becomes the most important accomplishment on students' and parents' list of priorities. Ironically, the objective nature of the GRE tests makes effort to cheat more worthwhile as once a copy of test paper is obtained, even an average student stands excellent chances of scoring grade points high enough to secure entry to schools like Stanford, Berkeley, Columbia, Harvard, or Yale.

Responsibility

The responsibility lies with parents to make their children realise that with education they also have to educate themselves in development of contemporary socio-economic political process. It is imperative to make them realise that school is a place through which they have to pass before entering into life. But training there alone does not prepare them for a life or ensures successful careers.

Nowadays, schools and colleges do not invariably impart cultural literacy. The result is: cultural illiteracy, which leads to losing the top slots in the multi-disciplinary field of finance and business to other competitors who might be just as skillful as you.

For example: During your interview for a computer management sales job with IBM, the director-in-charge for hiring says, "The position requires a person-

ality combining the warrior instincts of Achilles and the cunning of Ulysses," and you say, "Tell me more about this Achilles and Ulysses." The interviewer will smile and politely say, "Don't call us, we'll call you."

How much should you know to be a cultural literate? You really don't have to know much to be culturally literate and get in on the good life. Often you just have to have heard the name. "Lee faococa," for example: Somebody says faococa, all you have to know is — famous financial CEO of Ford Motors who took over Chrysler from the brink of Chapter 11 bankruptcy back to roaring business success in America — that is enough!

"Einstein," for example: Somebody says Einstein, what you have to know is — father of modern physics; maths genius who expounded the theory of relativity. You really don't have to understand Einstein theory or MC-squared.

You can be ignorant about Aids, Contras, apartheid, Start, and get all the way to the top, but let people see that the names leave you mystified and you will still be sitting on an obscure desk as a junior employee all your life swatting flies.

To make a breakthrough, you got to have the knowledge required to stay culturally literate. You have to constantly immerse yourself into the flux of knowledge through a serious well-co-ordinated programme of intensive varied reading.

Cultural "illiteracy" is deadly for poor societies where access to wide range of reading is limited. This has to be overcome by routinely visiting public libraries and putting some solid daily input into learning and polishing self-presentation. There is nothing more rewarding than knowing about the lot.

Concerned parental efforts aimed at combining academic skills with cultural literacy would gradually make students of the developing world realise that they still have the window of opportunity open for them and can maintain a competitive edge with graduates of prestigious Ivy League colleges.

The above effort will also help in curbing the brain drain of developing world's best upcoming talent to the developed countries. The education planners should not discount that the organised crime of cheating also is an efficient tool of transfer of human potential which could be domestically trained and used. The need of the day is that a pattern of system should be evolved whereby academic skills and cultural literacy should be simultaneously emphasised. The pursuit of prestigious degrees should be subordinated to acquiring knowledge through honest and fair means.

Iqbal Latif, Kuwait.

German sports

SIR: Since the uprooting of communism in Eastern Europe and the collapse of Berlin Wall, Nazi baiters are suspicious of German reunification. They have their own reasons because in the past Germans under Nazism and even earlier created enough headache for the world in general and Europe in particular.

A unified Germany is a big threat to world peace according to one school of thought which accepts only the present status of a divided Germany. The second school of thought is also supporting this view, not because of having lasting peace in the world but because they are afraid of a super industrial and commercial might of a unified Germany.

Still there is a third school of thought that is anxiously awaiting the re-unification of Germany only to see the emergence of a giant sports power. At the Olympic level after the division of Germany, both blocs have produced excellent results, not only in athletics but even in soccer.

In fact, the East bloc Germans have surpassed their Western counterparts especially in the field of swimming and because of this unique feature, Westerners are very much eager to learn the methods applied in training by the East Germans.

In two months' time World Cup soccer will start in Italy with Germany represented by its Western bloc. In 1945 West Germany was expelled from FIFA for being influenced by Nazism only to be readmitted in 1950. FIFA's argument for expelling West Germany can easily be substantiated by observing the attitudes of some of the Germans who later came in contact with the civilised world after the war.

A unified Germany can easily dominate not only the European continent but also the entire world in soccer. The secret of their success is the application of military attitude, hard work and rigid discipline which makes them second to none.

No doubt, the unification will bring about prosperity for them in industrial — commercial and sporting fields but will surely bring about moral bankruptcy because as soon as the Berlin Wall was razed down, the West Germans started exporting their habits to the other side of the wall. But it is worth to neglect morality for the material prosperity and sports ascendancy? It is for the Germans only to decide.

A. Veronica Fernandes, Safat.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Papandreou back in politics

ATHENS, (Reuters): Less than a year ago Andreas Papandreou was swept from office in an election defeat after a series of scandals that led many to declare his career was ruined.

But today the former Greek prime minister is back in the political mainstream, running hard in a general election on Sunday and telling voters his Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasok) will regain its place as the largest party. Latest opinion polls put it in second place after the conservative New Democracy Party.

Greece's first socialist prime minister, who dominated politics from the time of his landslide victory in 1981 until he was defeated in national elections last June, was at that time vilified and ridiculed daily in almost every newspaper.

An extramarital affair with Dimitria Liani, an airline stewardess half his age, kept political satirists busy.

Pasok was rocked by a series of financial and political scandals which drove many of the party faithful to resign in disgust or despair.

Defeat

The voters handed him such a crushing defeat that some commentators said a decade of conservative rule was at hand.

So far they have been wrong. No party won an absolute majority in the 300-seat Parliament in June, or in a November vote. Since Papandreou's defeat Greece has been ruled by weak coalitions.

A third election on Sunday will try to resolve an economic and political crisis paralysing the country but so far opinion polls indicate that yet again there will be no outright winner.

Latest polls give New Democracy 44.4 per cent, compared to 46.2 per cent and 143 seats in November. Pasok has 38.2 per cent, compared to 40.7 and 128 seats and the communists 10 per cent, compared to 40.7 and 128 seats and the communists 10 per cent, compared to 10.9 and 21 seats.

The conservatives and communists teamed up after last June's vote and used their majority in Parliament to send Papandreou and four other ministers to trial in a 200-million-dollar bank embezzlement case.

Charged

In a separate case, Papandreou was charged with overseeing illegal telephone bugging while in office. The trials are pending.

Despite the setbacks, 71-year-old Papandreou — who had open-heart surgery 18 months ago — kept his grip on Pasok and increased its strength in Parliament by three seats in November. He said this proved voters saw the charges against him as a political vendetta and had not forgotten the billions of dollars he pumped into an extensive social welfare state while in office.

Papandreou never wavered during his year-long ordeal, only accepting political responsibility as the head of government and insisting no man will stick to it.

Only the personality of Papandreou held Pasok together and kept it from splitting into three or four factions during the dark days last year," said former minister Gerassimos Arsenau who left Pasok in protest but has returned to the fold.

Pasok purged some associated with the scandals. Others who left in disgust came back. Papandreou looks healthier than he has in a year and his new wife — he married Liani last July — campaigns at his side.

Government

"We will form a government within 24 hours after the result of the election," he told one television interviewer.

No one expects him to win an absolute majority and few expect Pasok to emerge as the largest party. But speculation has centred on whether Pasok will form a leftist coalition government with the communists.

Papandreou thinks it will.

"The next government will be made up of all democratic and progressive forces," he said referring to the communists, Pasok and perhaps a seat or two from the ecologists. Such a coalition would have squeaked by with 151 seats in November.

For months the communists have refused to deal with Pasok, especially if Papandreou — the man they voted to send to trial — remained at the helm.

Last month, however, they agreed with Pasok to field joint left-wing candidates in five crucial seats. But communist leader Harilaos Florakis said this was to ensure that New Democracy, his former coalition partner, was denied an absolute majority on Sunday.

QUOTE ME

"Our principal motive for war will be the torture, murder and disappearance of our colleagues. But by contrast we will step up our war against the torturers and against the industrial and political oligarchy which are accomplices of torture and murder. We will not lower our banner and we will respond with bombs and executions to extradition and disappearances." — Colombian drug barons threatening the government.

"President Hiriwa has our full support. Together with the rest of the international community, we welcomed his election as an important step on the path to peace. We are in his efforts to re-establish a united independent country free from foreign troops." — British Premier Margaret Thatcher.

"The German played better than I expected. When I tried to hit at his backhand, he positioned himself on the court so that it would be very difficult for me to attack. He had me under attack constantly." — Jaffe after being defeated in a Davis Cup match by Carl-Uwe Steeb of West Germany.

"I think it is a very important weakness when you are missing the number one player in the world. But we are a very good team and we will try to do the best that we can. Jen. Wohrmann of West Germany after being beaten by Argentine Mancini in a Davis Cup tourney.

"For the two peoples who live in the holy land, the Israeli people and the Palestinian people, the pope repeated his profound conviction that only a sincere will for mutual understanding, of respect for the rights and fears of the other, can launch the path of negotiations. This path can put an end to the sufferings and perils each people to live in its own country, open to collaboration with the other peoples of the region." — A Vatican statement after the pope met Yasser Arafat.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1500 — French army, aided by Swiss mercenaries, conquers Milan.
- 1730 — First Jewish congregation in America consecrates its first synagogue. The congregation in New York City dates back to 1655.
- 1759 — British forces take Masulipatam, Madras, India.
- 1898 — British Gen Horatio Kitchener's forces score victory at Atbara river in Sudan.
- 1902 — Russia and China reach agreement for evacuation of Manchuria.
- 1906 — Algeciras act is signed, giving France and Spain chief control in Morocco.
- 1907 — Britain and France sign convention confirming independence of Siam (Thailand).
- 1913 — First Parliament of Chinese republic opens.
- 1919 — Russian communist army enters the Crimea.
- 1939 — Albania's King Zog flees as Italian troops invade his country.
- 1950 — India and Pakistan sign pact at New Delhi on treatment of minorities.
- 1958 — US President Dwight D. Eisenhower proposes mutual inspection as means of enforcing atomic test ban.
- 1961 — Referendum in France approves a peace settlement with nationalist rebels in Algeria.
- 1964 — India releases Sheikh Abdullah, former premier of Kashmir.
- 1986 — Car bomb explodes near Lebanese president Amin Gemayel's Phalange Party offices in Christian port of Jounieh, killing 10 civilians and wounding 110.
- 1989 — Norwegian authorities search for evidence of radioactivity from Soviet nuclear submarine that sank off northern Norway.

Rebels open fire at surrender ceremony

Afghan Army general, deputy security minister among 12 dead

ISLAMABAD, April 7. (AP) Rebels opened fire as more than 10,000 other insurgents surrendered to the Afghan government in a ceremony yesterday on the Herat plains, killing more than a dozen people, state-run radio reported.

Jamiat-i-Islami, considered the most militarily efficient of the seven Pakistan-based Afghan rebel groups, claimed the surrender was planned five months ago to trap government forces.

An Afghan Army general, a deputy security minister, nine rebels and

others were killed in the fighting. The rebels killed Lt Gen. Jalal Razamin, who is also a deputy security minister, and injured Herat provincial Governor Fazl Haq Khaliq Yar as they embraced mujahedeen commanders who gave up their weapons and promised to join President Najib's "national reconciliation policy."

A second general died later on a military plane to Kabul, it said. His identity was not immediately released.

"National reconciliation" is a term used by the government for rebel groups agreeing to switch sides and either stop fighting or help the government. Najib has claimed tens of thousands of rebels have joined "national reconciliation" in the past year.

But rebel sources in the south-east Pakistani city of Quetta said the attack was first planned five months ago.

According to the sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, the mujahedeen slowly began infiltrating the area in November and then set word that they wanted to surrender.

The rebels are trying to overthrow the government that seized power in the 1978 coup that installed Marxist rule. The rebels are backed by the United States and Saudi Arabia and based in Pakistan.

According to Kabul Radio,

several civilians died in the close-range battle that erupted during the surrender ceremony, Kabul Radio said.

Diplomats based in Kabul, the capital, and foreign journalists had been flown in for the ceremony and became witnesses to the slaughter, the radio said.

"A small group of extremists attacked the welcome ceremony with heavy fire. In the resulting battle between Afghan troops and the extremists, numerous people were martyred," said the radio, mon-



An Afghan rebel fighter sitting at his anti-aircraft gun at a base near besieged city of Herat (Reuters wirephoto)

2,200 armed mujahedeen and some 8,000 unarmed rebels gathered on the plains about 45 kms (25 miles) from the city of Herat for the surrender ceremony.

But instead of surrendering their weapons, the rebels turned them on government officials and army troops, the mujahedeen sources said.

The rebels -- reportedly armed with weapons ranging from sidearms to recoilless cannons, missiles and rocket launchers -- fired the first shot as the governor embraced an unidentified rebel commander dressed in a white robe and turban, according to Western diplomats and rebel leaders in Pakistan.

The governor's guards immediately fired back and the plain erupted in a hail of gunfire from both sides, they said.

The diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity, also said they had reports that as many as five Afghan generals were killed or wounded in the 15-minute gun battle and in hand-to-hand combat with knives and pistols.

Kabul Radio made no mention of them.

Several civilians, including children, were killed in the cross-fire that erupted when two Afghan Army tanks moved into the area and broke up the crowd with bursts of fire, the diplomats said.

A photographer from Afghan National Television also was reported shot in the head and seriously wounded they said.

The Herat district was the first region in Afghanistan to rise up against the Marxist government in early 1979, before the Soviet Army intervened to prop up the government.

Government troops pretended to have joined the rebellion, and the ensuing fighting cost at least 2,000 lives.

The Kremlin pulled out its troops in February 1989, but continues to pump an estimated \$300 million a month in supplies and weapons into Afghanistan.

Captors heed Khaddafi appeal

BEIRUT, April 7. (Agencies) Palestinian radicals led by Abu Nidal, one of the world's most wanted guerrilla leaders, said yesterday they would free three European hostages in response to an appeal by Libyan leader Muammar Khaddafi.

A Palestinian source told Reuters that Frenchwoman Jacqueline Valente, 31, her Belgian boyfriend Fernand Houtekins, 42, and their baby Sony Houtekins who was born in captivity, would be freed in the next few days.

"I am glad to announce that our group has agreed to respond to the appeal of leader Muammar Khaddafi," said Walid Khaddaf, spokesman of Abu Nidal's Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC) in a statement released in Beirut.

The statement left unclear the fate of four Belgians kidnapped with Valente and Houtekins in November 1987 from a yacht in the eastern Mediterranean.

Nor did it mention another baby whom the FRC has said was born to Valente and Houtekins a few months ago. Sony was born about two years ago.

The FRC said on Thursday that it was holding contacts to arrange the release of all the hostages seized from the yacht.

Khaddaf said "contacts and arrangements were under way" to release Valente, Houtekins, and Sony, but did not say when they would be freed.

The Libyan-backed FRC has said its captives are Jewish spies. They are believed to be held either in Lebanon or Libya. The Palestinian source said the three hostages to be released would probably surface somewhere other than Beirut.

The FRC, described by the United States government as the world's most dangerous terrorist group, is thought to be behind a string of attacks against Israelis, Europeans and Gulf Arab states, including the attempted killing of Israel's ambassador to London in 1982.

In one of their most violent attacks, Abu Nidal's guerrillas assaulted Rome and Vienna airports in 1986, killing 17 people.

The fate of the FRC's hostages is thought to have little bearing on that of 17 Westerners missing and believed held hostage in Lebanon by pro-Iranian groups.

Apart from the three to be released, the captives seized from the yacht were Valente's two teenage daughters, Houtekins' brother Emmanuel, 44, his wife Godolieve Kets, 39, and their two children Valerie, 18, and Laurent, 19.

The Libyan leader urged Muslims on Wednesday to adhere to the "noble Islamic values which affirm the honour and humanity of man and the non-taking of innocent hostages."

Khaddaf said Khaddafi and the French government had tried hard to secure the release of the hostages. Belgium had not made any serious effort, he said.

"The Belgian government should fulfil its pledges on one hand and curb the Zionist activity against our revolution and nation on the other," Khaddaf said.

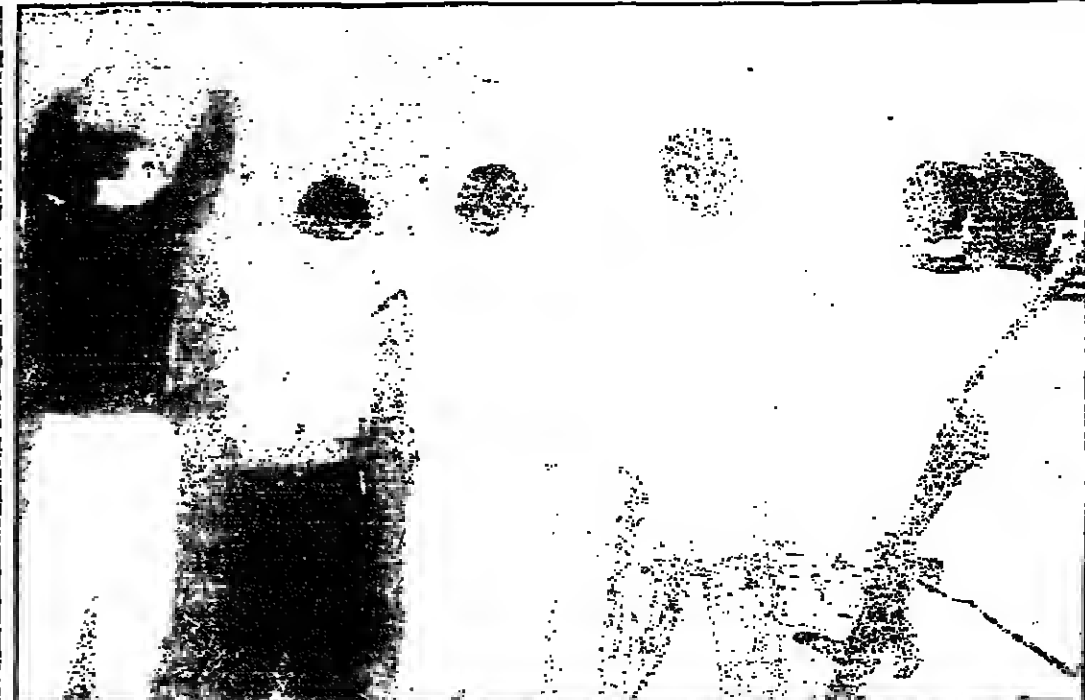
Abu Nidal has been based in Libya for several years but diplomats say his relations with Khaddafi became strained last year.

The International Committee of the Red Cross yesterday expressed doubt about the authenticity of a renewed threat to kill one of two Red Cross relief workers taken hostage in Lebanon exactly six months ago.

Meanwhile work at the humanitarian agency's Geneva headquarters came to a halt as staff protested the "odious act" and the "prolonged anxiety caused by the kidnappers' continuing silence," an ICRC statement said.

The statement said the ICRC was analysing a message received by a Western news agency in Nicosia late Thursday from a man claiming to speak to the action group for the release of Hariri.

The telephone caller demanded the release of Mohammed Hariri, jailed for life in Switzerland for a 1987 air hijacking, and Anis Naccache, serving a life sentence in France for trying to assassinate an Iranian emigre leader in Paris.



Israeli border police line up Palestinian suspects in occupied Jerusalem's Old City yesterday after an Israeli man was stabbed and wounded there. More than 80 Arabs were detained. (Reuters wirephoto)

Gaza boy dies during protest Jewish student stabbed

OCCUPIED Jerusalem, April 7. (Agencies) A Palestinian teenager died yesterday during protests around a Gaza Strip mosque whose doors were welded shut by the Israeli army. Palestinian sources said he was shot by soldiers but Israel said he fell from a nearby roof.

A Jewish seminary student was stabbed and wounded in Arab East Jerusalem.

Palestinian sources said Ali Suleiman Irbaye, 15, was shot in the chest and killed when troops dispersed Arabs who had broken into a mosque in Khan Younis refugee camp in the Gaza Strip to hold their Friday prayers.

The army welded shut the mosque's doors on Tuesday after activists flew the Palestinian flag from it. Ten Palestinians were wounded in yesterday's clash, the sources said.

The army confirmed the circumstances of the clash but said Irbaye died when his skull was fractured after he fell from the roof of a house while protesting.

The dispute over the circumstances of Irbaye's death left the death toll in a 28-month-old Palestinian revolt against Israeli occupation of the territories at 638 Arabs killed by Israelis.

Palestinians have killed 198 fellow Arabs, most on suspicion of helping Israeli security forces, and 44 Jews have been killed.

Troops used tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse stone-throwers in Jelazou refugee camp in the West Bank when a clash erupted during the funeral of Mustafa Al Jaru, 16, one of two persons

killed by troops on Thursday. Palestinians said. In Jerusalem, police said Daniel Rubens, an armed 35-year-old Jewish seminary student, was stabbed in the back while pushing his infant son in a stroller inside the walled Old City.

Rubens was in stable condition in hospital, police said. His assailant escaped and police arrested 80 Palestinians for questioning.

The last Israeli stabbing in the Old City was a woman soldier attacked in January.

Israeli security sources said the army arrested Sheikh Bassam Jarrar of El Bireh village in the West Bank on Thursday on suspicion of being a leader of the Israeli-outlawed Islamic resistance movement, known by the Arabic acronym Hamas.

Jarrar, a prominent West Bank figure and lecturer at a teachers' training college in Ramallah, has been jailed without trial twice since the outbreak of the Palestinian revolt.

Also yesterday, 10 Israeli peace activists chained themselves symbolically to the five-metre (yard) tall fence around the deheise Palestinian refugee camp near Bethlehem. The activists carried signs saying "lift your oppression from deheise" and "don't be afraid, we are with you."

The army installed the high fencing to stop camp residents from stoning the cars of Jewish settlers who pass on a nearby road.

Meanwhile, Israel radio reported that Sheikh Bassam El Sharah, a spiritual leader of Islamic groups in the occupied West Bank, was detained by security forces in a raid on his home near Ramallah.



PLO leader Yasser Arafat is greeted by Pope John Paul II as he arrives at Vatican for a private audience. (Reuters wirephoto)

PLO leader in secret contact with Israelis

ROME, April 7. (AP) PLO leader Yasser Arafat said yesterday that he had secret contacts with Israeli leaders to discuss the Middle East peace process and the uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Arafat made the disclosure in an interview with Italy's state-owned Rain Television broadcast several hours after the Palestinian leader held his third meeting in eight years with Pope John Paul II.

Asked whether he had secret, high-level contact with Israel, Arafat replied, "Yes, there is. There are many contacts between the Palestinian and Israeli leadership. For example, (former Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak) Rabin sent an emissary with a message for me. Even (Prime Minister Yitzhak) Shamir did so."

There have been rumours of contact between Israel and PLO leaders but they had not been previously confirmed. Israel has banned talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Shamir dismissed Science Minister Ezer Weizman from Israel's inner cabinet last December for having contacts with the PLO.

Arafat said yesterday he is waiting to see if a new Israeli government headed by Labour Party leader Shimon Peres "is disposed to open a dialogue with the Palestinians, or not."

The 60-year-old PLO leader spoke at a news conference summing up his two-day official visit to Rome during which he was supported from Italian government and political party leaders for a European initiative to persuade Israel to open peace negotiations.

The Pope supports both a Palestinian homeland and Israel's right to exist within secure borders, but recognises neither Israel nor the Palestinian state declared in 1988.

Meeting the PLO leader on the last day of his controversial visit to Italy and the Vatican, the Pope called for "mutual understanding, (and) respect for each other's rights and fears" between Israelis and Palestinians.

He told Arafat negotiations should "bring an end to suffering and let each people live in peace, freedom, dignity, and tranquility in their own homeland, open to collaboration with the other peoples of the region."

The International Jewish Committee on Inter-religious Consultations (IJCIC) has condemned Arafat's "curriculum," and told the Vatican the audience threatened to open a new rift in Jewish-Catholic relations.

Carter is free to do his thing, says Bush

WASHINGTON, April 7. (Reuters) US President George Bush yesterday took a neutral stance on former president Jimmy Carter's meeting with PLO chief Yasser Arafat this week and again urged Israel to enter peace negotiations with Palestinian representatives.

Carter, who met Arafat in Paris on Wednesday, "was not acting with the blessing of, nor disapproval of, or anything else, of the administration," Bush said when asked about the meeting at a convention of the American Society of Newspaper Editors.

Bush said that his Democratic predecessor, who has often consulted with the White House on foreign policy matters, acted on his own and that he knew nothing about the meeting.

"Certainly, he as a former president should be free to do his thing and that's exactly what he's doing," Bush said.

Although he denied a reporter's suggestion that the administration was seeking to link aid to Israel to its willingness to negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the President again urged the Jewish state to agree to a peace plan devised by Secretary of State James Baker.

The Baker plan calls for negotiations involving Israel and Palestinian representatives on an Israeli proposal for elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

"What I would like Israel to do is to meet under the Baker plan and discuss peace," he said. "Nobody has tied any aid into that... I have no intention of tying aid into it."

Bush said the United States had assured the Jewish state "in detailed negotiations" that it would not be compelled to talk with PLO officials under the Baker plan.

Earlier yesterday, in a meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, Bush pressed Moscow to let Jewish emigres fly directly to Israel from the Soviet Union.

An agreement calling for direct flights between the Soviet Union and Israel was supposed to go into effect earlier this year. But the Kremlin, bowing to pressure from Arab countries which complained that Soviet emigres were being resettled in occupied territory, has declined to implement the pact.

Mubarak denies making N-arms

CAIRO, April 7. (Agencies) Egypt denied yesterday developing an atomic bomb and defended Iraq against Western claims that it was involved in nuclear proliferation, but a senior Egyptian military strategist said Cairo needed the bomb for its security.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, dismissed press reports his country was developing nuclear weapons as a plot against Arab states.

Mubarak, in a speech to senior military officers at Suez, some 75 miles (120-km) east of Cairo, also defended his country's Arab ally Baghdad and said he was convinced that Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein was not looking to start a war with Israel.

"(Mubarak) said he was taken by surprise about the press reports claiming Egypt is developing an atomic bomb," Egypt's official Middle East news agency reported. "He dismissed these reports as part of a campaign to pressure Arab states, cause friction between nations in the region, and provoke world opinion against Arabs."

But Maj. Gen. Nabil Ibrahim Ahmad, a senior Egyptian military strategist, was quoted in the 1990 edition of the semi-official magazine Al Siassa At Dawliya (International Politics) as saying that Egypt should continue its efforts to develop its own nuclear arms industry.

"The starting point in this industry is to develop a missile for use in military operations, or to launch a satellite or an atomic bomb."

Israel launched its second experimental satellite on Tuesday, and Arab reports said it was a military reconnaissance probe. US officials confirmed last year that Iraq tested a rocket capable of lifting a satellite into orbit, but experts said its technology was still far behind Israel.

Arab diplomats claimed that Egypt, Iraq and Argentina had co-operated on the development of the Condor-2 intermediate missile programme, but Cairo recently pulled out because of the high costs involved. Other reports said President Bush, concerned about nuclear and missile proliferation in the Middle East, asked Egypt to pull out the project. Egypt, Syria, Iraq and Saudi Arabia already possess medium-range missiles capable of hitting targets in Israel, but do not yet have the technology to fit nuclear warheads on the projectiles.

Mubarak's statements came in the wake of Anglo-American efforts last week to foil an Iraqi attempt to smuggle triggers for nuclear bombs from the United States via Britain.

Israel's top military leaders tried to calm the country yesterday, saying Iraq and Jordan were arming themselves out of fear of the Jewish state.

The two most senior generals sought to counter a boast by Saddam that his country has binary chemical weapons and would launch massive retaliation for any Israeli attack.

"I suggest the meaning of this speech should not be exaggerated," said Chief-of-Staff Lieutenant-General Dan Shomron told the daily Yedioth Achronoth.



A Christian stands in sorrow at the balcony of his destroyed house in battered east Beirut. Right: A British securityman guards British Ambassador to Lebanon, Allan John Ramsey (centre), as he speaks to a local guard of the embassy in west Beirut yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)



Call to strengthen Hirawi Rival Christians fight

LABAT, April 7. (Reuters) Lebanese Christian deputies urged Arab peacekeepers yesterday to strengthen President Elias Hiriawi's army to enable him to extend his authority to the Christian enclave, diplomatic sources said.

Michel Sassin, George Sadeh, and Nasri Maalouf -- all of whom signed last year's Arab League-backed Taif accords -- met officials of Algeria, Morocco, and Saudi Arabia to seek fresh support for the stalled peace bid.

The initiative has run aground over the refusal of General Michel Aoun to relinquish power in the Christian enclave to an internationally recognised head of state.

"Aoun is the obstacle to the plan's implementation, so that next stage is to give the President as the symbol of Lebanese legitimacy the means to deal with that obstacle," an informed source said.

Aoun, who commands 15,000 regular soldiers, on Thursday fought one of the fiercest battles for a month with rival Christian leader Samir Geagea. Geagea this week called on Hirawi to intervene to end two months of bloodshed in the Christian enclave.

The Iraqi and Syrian foreign ministers, whose countries back opposing sides in the inter-Christian battle, have also arrived in Morocco to attend an Organisation of Islamic Conference meeting.

The OIC meeting has been called to co-ordinate strategy against increased emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel.

Geagea, who has declared his loyalty to Hirawi, has proposed handing his garrisons over to 22,000 predominantly Muslim troops loyal to Hirawi.

Geagea called on Aoun to hand over his barracks to Lahoud saying control by the "legitimate authority" of all army barracks in Lebanon was the only way out of the clashes.

Hirawi on Thursday said he would heed the plea from Geagea but did not indicate that he was prepared to order his troops to move into the Christian enclave by force.

Prime Minister Salim Hoss discussed the situation in the Christian enclave yesterday with Labour and Defence Minister Albert Mansour.

A government source, speaking on condition of anonymity, stressed that "the government will not send its troops into the enclave to become a party to the present conflict."

The Bush administration said yesterday it considered recent statements by Geagea as "encouraging" but said implementation of promises remains the key to a solution of Lebanon's problems.

The State Department was reacting to statements made by Geagea earlier this week expressing readiness to place his forces under President Hirawi and asking the President to send his forces into Christian areas.

"The US strongly favours all developments that expand the authority of the legitimate government of President Hirawi," a State Department statement said.

Rival Christian forces blasted each other with tank and artillery fire in East Beirut yesterday and Shi'ite foes fought in south Lebanon with rockets and mortars, security sources said.

Motorists and pedestrians raced for cover in Ashrafieh and Sin El-Fil areas in East Beirut where troops of Aoun and Lebanese Forces (LF) militiamen have been fighting off and on since January 31.

President Herzog throws his support behind public campaign for electoral reform

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, April 7. (AP) President Chaim Herzog yesterday threw his support behind a growing public campaign for electoral reform, expressing solidarity with army reserve officers who are staging a hunger strike to push for change.

Yesterday, at least 70,000 Israelis had signed petitions demanding a change in the country's electoral system. A wide range of political, religious and student organisations urged their members to attend a protest rally in Tel Aviv today.

"The momentum is enormous," said political science professor Ehud Sprin-

guk, organiser of the campaign in occupied Jerusalem. "We are trying to galvanise it into a huge political movement."

The protests came as the left-leaning Labour Party tried to form a ruling coalition, and the rival right-wing Likud bloc moved to torpedo Labour's efforts.

Critics have accused both Labour and Likud of using offers of government money and political jobs to entice small ultra-orthodox political factions to one side or the other.

Labour leader Shimon Peres announced earlier this week that he had put

together a majority in the 120-member Parliament, but he would not identify his backers. Israel radio reported that Labour has signed a deal with Likud defector Avraham Shafir, a former tourism minister.

Yesterday, Labour reportedly tried to persuade four wavering Shafir associates to also abandon Likud. Peres has offered one of the associates, Economics Minister Yitzhak Modai, the key Finance Ministry in a Labour government, the radio said.

Modai sought offers from Peres after several Likud leaders refused his

demands for a \$2.5 million bank guarantee to back to the party's promise to make him a Likud cabinet minister.

Also yesterday, three small left-wing parties courted by Peres demanded that a Labour government lift some of the harsh measures imposed by the army to crush the 27-month Palestinian uprising.

Leaders of Mapam, Shinui and the Citizens Rights Movement met with Labour's No. 2, Yitzhak Rabin, to push the demands, Israel radio said.

As defence minister in the government that collapsed March 15, Rabin was in charge of putting down the uprising.

The calls for reforming Israel's electoral system included demands for direct election of the prime minister and for having voters cast ballots for candidates instead of party slates.

The reformers complain the current method does not make those elected accountable to voters.

The protest against backroom deals was launched March 28 by two army reserve officers who began a hunger strike in front of Parliament. More than 20 other people have joined the strike, and they have received thousands of well-wishers.

EVENTS



The legend of Holi.



Radha and Krishna playing Holi.



Organisers sang and danced among the audience.



Audience join in the fun.

Holi: playful festival of colours

HOLI marks the advent of spring season and is observed on the full moon night of 'phagun' at the end of the winter season.

Holi, a popular playful festival of colours, is very popular in northern India and is celebrated with much exuberance, light heartedness and gaiety by the young and old, men and women, boys and girls alike.

To mark the beginning of spring, the IAC celebrated Holi at its auditorium on March 22. The programme started off with a short play showing the legend of Holi, followed by a dance showing Lord Krishna playing Holi with the gopis. Once the formal part of the show on the stage was over, the organisers came down amongst the audience to sing and dance and play Holi.

Seasonal songs by various people were sung impromptu and were well appreciated by all. If only the ingredients mentioned in the famous Amitabh Bachchan songs were available, could the evening had been better; however, many a person drove home tired, with colour on their faces, but happy to have played Holi and shown their children what one of India's popular festival looks like.

TELEVISION PROGRAMME

KTV 1

- 1.00 Opening and Holy Quran
- 1.15 World today via Satellite (repetition)
- 1.30 Cultural programme: Animals of the world
- 2.00 Cartoons
- 2.30 Historical serial: Maal Sabreen
- 3.05 Health programme
- 3.35 Arabic daily serial: Qabadi Bahloul
- 4.20 Local religious programme
- 4.45 Arabic daily serial: Raafat Al Hajjan (part 13)
- 5.30 Religious programme
- 6.15 Baadal Ifar
- 6.30 Cartoons
- 7.00 Local children serial
- 8.15 Local programme: Diwanayat Shuara Al Nabi
- 9.00 Cultural programme: Juhaina
- 9.45 Local programme: Sawalef Minal Madi
- 10.00 News in Arabic
- 10.45 Local serial: Family (part 13)
- 11.45 Local variety programme 3 x 3 (part 13)
- 12.30 Arabic daily serial: Sharie Al Mawirdi (part 13)
- 1.15 Arabic film
- 3.00 News in brief
- 3.05 World today via Satellite
- 3.20 Closedown

KTV 2

- 8.00 Opening Announcement & Holy Quran
- 8.10 Bereastain Bears. A cartoon series for children
- 8.30 The Beachcombers. "Loud and Proud" with Nick's help "Fat" built his own racing boat, the "Loud and Proud." In an effort to impress a

- 9.00 News in English
- 9.30 Welcome Ramadan. A religious programme on the occasion of Holy Ramadan
- 9.45 Matlock. The Millionaire Part 2. Matlock continues his investigations to unveil the real criminal
- 10.30 Body Matters. A look at Masculine nature and Femininity in human beings... Biological changes that occur at age of maturity... early- and delayed maturity particularly of girls...
- 11.00 The Nut House
- 11.30 Best seller. "Fields of Fire" Part 2. "Gena" arrives from Naples and stays at Bruno's house. She falls in love with a criminal called "Franco" who caused the death of his wife.
- 1.15 News in Brief
- 1.30 Magazine D'Actualite

CINEMA

- Al Andalus
- Cold Steel
- Al Sahiyah
- Goodmorning Vietnam
- Al Hamra
- Arabic film
- Drive-In
- Raiders of Paradise
- Al Firdous
- Kaum-Jeeta Kaum Hara
- Fahaeel Open
- Subh - O-Sham
- Fahaeel
- Naadu Vazhikal
- Al Jahra
- Khuda Kasam
- Grassids
- Mera Farz
- Salsabikhat
- White Water Sam
- Jeeb
- Chithram
- Almadi Drive-In
- Ninja Champion

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Sultan Gallery
Furniture of Kuwait, pre-1940s furniture, is currently on show at the Sultan Gallery, daily from 10 am to 12 noon and 8 to 10 pm.
From April 16, 1990, "The Mosques of Isfahan" exhibition will be shown at the gallery; it will be open daily from 10 am to 12 noon and 8 to 10 pm.

Bits 'n' Pieces
An interesting 8 week course in patchwork and quilting techniques. For details contact Tel. 5634663.

SOCIAL

Holy Week 1990
Holy Family Cathedral - Kuwait
Palm and Passion Sunday: 8th April - 7.00 am. Holy Mass (English): 3.25 pm. Holy Mass (Konkani): 4.30 pm. Holy Mass (Konkani): 5.45 pm. Holy Mass (English): 7.55 pm. Holy Mass (English).

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday of the Holy Week: 9th, 10th, 11th April - 7.15 am. Holy Mass (English): 6.00 pm to 8.30 pm. Confession: 6.30 pm. Holy Mass (English): 7.00 pm. Holy Mass & Retreat (Malayalam) - in big hall.

Maundy Thursday: 12th April - 7.00 am. Concelebrated Mass of Christ (English): 4.00 pm. Holy Mass (Konkani): 5.30 pm. Solemn Holy Mass of the Lord's Supper (English): 9.00 pm. Adoration (English) - in big hall.

Good Friday: 13th April (Day of fast and abstinence) - 7.00 am. Celebration of the Lord's Passion (Malayalam): 9.00 am. Celebration of the Lord's Passion (English): 2.30 pm. Celebration of the Lord's Passion (Konkani): 4.00 pm. Celebration of the Lord's Passion (English): 5.30 pm. Celebration of the Lord's Passion (English).

Holy Saturday: 14th April - 4.00 pm to 6.00 pm Confessions: 8.00 pm. Easter Vigil Mass (English).
Easter Sunday: 15th April - 7.00 am. Holy Mass (English): 9.00 am. Holy Mass (English): 10.00 am. Holy Mass (English): 11.00 am. Holy Mass (English): 11.30 am. Holy Mass (French in big hall): 12.00 noon Holy Mass (English): 4.00 pm. Holy Mass (Konkani): 5.00 pm. Holy Mass (English): 6.00 pm. Holy Mass (English): 7.00 pm. Holy Mass (Malayalam in big hall).

Ladies International League
LIL's Summer Bazaar is now being held at the Kuwait Regency Palace Hotel in the exhibition hall on Friday, May 11 from 10 am to 6 pm. All inquiries contact Cecilia on 3434946 or Barbara on 3325131.

Hyderabad

The Committee for Celebrations of 400-year Anniversary of Hyderabad (DECCAN) invites essays in Urdu, Telugu or English languages in not less than 1000 words on one of the following topics: 1. Quli Qutub Shah - the Architect of Hyderabad; 2. Contribution of Nawab Mir Osman Ali Khan towards modern Hyderabad; 3. Hyderabad City as I saw her (for school students only).

The competition is open to all present and former Hyderabadis and their children residing in Kuwait.

A panel of judges will judge the first, second and third prize winning entries, and the prizes and citations will be distributed before the audience at 400-year anniversary celebrations to be held sometime in May 1990.

All entries must be neatly written or typed on A4 size paper in double space, and reach the committee on or before April 30, 1990 and addressed to the Convenor Literary Committee, PO Box 23343, Safat, 13094, Kuwait. No entry fee is charged.

Passion Week

The English Language congregation of National Evangelical Church will hold the following worship services.

8th April - Palm Sunday - Worship from 6 pm to 7.30 pm.

11th April - Wednesday - The choir will present Easter Cantata from 5.30 pm to 7.00 pm.

12th April - Maundy Thursday - Communion worship service from 7.00 pm to 8.30 pm.

13th April - Good Friday Service from 11.45 am to 3.00 pm.

15th April - Easter Sunrise Service from 4.30 am to 6.00 am.

Easter Communion Service from 7 am to 8.30 am.

Easter Sunday worship service from 6.00 pm to 7.30 pm.

During which choir will present "Easter Cantata". All are welcome.

Saligaocars

CALLING all Saligaocars... to respond to the call for a social gathering on May 25 at Ramada Al Salam, at 11.30 am.

For details contact the following: Justin Fernandes on Tel. No. 2406936 (Res). Aloos Carvalho. 2411442 Res. 246121. Americo Remedios. Res. 3983348 and Paul D'Cruz. Res. 2447729. Tony Cordeiro off. 2415401. Res. 2412337.

Kuwait Players

The Kuwait Players will be performing "On Pink Paper in Black and White" on Wednesday and Thursday April 18 and 19 respectively. The play comprises of 3 one act plays and starts at 8.00 pm at the Universal American School. For tickets and more information contact 5629875 or 5640981.

Approb Eld Milan Party

Association of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen is organising its traditional Eid Milan Party at the SAS Hotel, Ballroom, on the second of Eid Al Fitr.

The Gala Party programme will include dinner, music, songs, comedy and a colourful display of Pakistani national costumes.

There will be special entertainment and games for children under the age of ten. A lucky draw with attractive prizes and American auction will also be held for the benefit of needy students of Pakistani schools in Kuwait.

For further details and reservations please contact 5317390, 5386201, 5316273, 2425315, 5631815, 5613934, 2522647.

PAC's Silver Jubilee

THE organising committee of the Pakistan Arts Circle will celebrate PAC's Silver Jubilee on Thursday, the 27th April, 1990 at 9 pm. The programme will include variety of programme and "Sham-e-Ghazal." Our earlier artists will present his wonderful performance, and is being invited from Pakistan.

Reservations are open to all families. All are kindly requested to book their seats well before 15th April, 1990. For more information contact 4716258.

Summer Affair '90

THE Weekend Club will host their traditional "Summer Affair" on the first day of Eid Al Fitr (April 26) at the Regency Palace Hotel. Watch or participate in the selection and crowning of the 1990 Summer Queen. Join in a Jive Contest, watch a scintillating display of "Lambada" or simply let your feet loose to the music of Top Ranks and Perfect Strangers. Gala buffet, loads of prizes and most important have a good time. For reservations call 4315425 (Julio), 5741380 or 4890566.

Indian Cuisine Centre

Indian art of fancied lac bangles and designful henna work comes live at the finest Indian cuisine centre of Kuwait at the Maharaja Palace Restaurant.

Come savour the delicacies whilst giving your lady a gift to cherish. For more information contact 2406150.

Kuwait Little Theatre

Kuwait Little Theatre are presenting a St. George's Day Revue on Thursday 19 April in the Unity Centre, Ahmadi, beginning at 7.30 pm (Please note the change of date to that previously advertised). Acts include Phil Thomas, June Woolston. The Kuwait Folk Group, and the Kuwait Singers. Tickets and tables can be booked by telephoning 3919759.

Kuwait School of Contemporary Dance presents

The Dancer Is the dance & dance is life

On Monday, April 30 at 8 pm. Tuesday, May 1 at 8 pm. Wednesday, May 2 at 8 pm. Thursday, May 3 at 3 pm (matinee). Thursday, May 3 at 8 pm.

Tickets will be on sale from Saturday, April 14th from 4 pm - 6 pm Saturday - Wednesday in the Box Office in the Mousetrap Theatre or Tel: 5382099, 8 am - 12 noon.

Hobby Centre

An exhibition of students work in Jewellery, watercolour painting and pottery in the Studio at the Tareq Rajab Museum on Wednesday, April 11 from 8 pm - 10.30 pm, Thursday, April 12 from 9.30 am - 12 noon and 8 pm - 10.30 pm, Friday, April 13 from 8 pm - 10.30 pm. All are welcome.

British Council

The British Council working hours during the Holy month of Ramadan: General office - Saturday to Wednesday - 7.30 to 14.00; Library - Saturday to Wednesday - 9.00 to 12.30, 16.00 to 19.00; Thursday: 9.00 to 1.20.

HOTELS

Kuwait Plaza

SPECIAL Ramadan Activities: Al Dallah coffee shop features authentic iftar with sumptuous dishes, mezza, sweet, Ramadan drinks and a special buffet.

NOURA TERRACE: Surrounded by man-made waterfalls and green sceneries offers all kinds of light meals, juices, Ramadan drinks, bubbly-bubble and trick trail in an open air atmosphere. open from 8 pm until 2 am.

LOLOWAH CORNER: Invites you to spend an evening out with your family. Enjoy all kinds of Kuwaiti and Arabic sweets with variety of delicious beverage and live entertainment. Open from sunset until 2 am.

Tourist Restaurant

KNOWN for Indian Pakistani tandoori/curry dishes with seven types of bread. Ramadan timings take away service 5 pm onward regular dine 6 pm to 1 pm. For further information contact. Tele. 2411702.

Mughal Mahal

FIRST Indian restaurant to introduce Mughlai cuisine in Kuwait. Enjoy our specialties such as: Khandari Tikka Mal, Mali Kebab, Navratan Briyani and lots more. Ramadan timings. Carry away pick up's from 5 pm onwards. Dine in from 6 pm to 2 am. Tele. 2425131/2.

Ramadan at Messilah Beach Hotel
AL MUBARAKIAH: Daily Ramadan Iftar Buffet, with a

selection of fresh dishes. Kuwaiti and Middle Eastern specialties.

Ghabga & Sobour: Enjoy the daily fresh desserts and juices with the delightful sohour buffet accompanied by soft Middle Eastern background music on the oud.

Holiday Inn

RAMADAN ACTIVITIES: COFFEE SHOP: Lavish buffet of traditional Arabic cuisine for only KD6.000 including beverages. First two kids free, per family, the rest half price. SUHOUR: Eat as much as you can for KD2.000. LOBBY CAFE: All kinds of freshly squeezed juices plus mouth-watering pastries. BABYLON GARDENS: Order for 2 and pay for 1. From 7 to 9 pm nightly. Enjoy a variety of Arabic and Continental sweets and associated fresh fruit juices.

LA PERCOLA: The beach side open air restaurant offers light meals and snacks from sunset to midnight.

The Meridian

DURING the holy month of Ramadan

LA BRASSERIE: Meridian invites you to join us for a delicious iftar buffet being served during the holy month of Ramadan. Indulge in a sumptuous choice of traditional dishes, including a variety of mezzah, majbous, saffia, baal-baki, harissa and mansaf saoudi. Complete your meal with a mouth-watering array of desserts like bassboush, maamoul bel tamer and katayef.

La Brasserie will also feature a lavish buffet including desserts and delicious beverages from sunset until midnight. A La Carte items are available until 2.00 am.

AL FINGAN: Open from sunset until 2.00 am. A tantalising selection of delicious cocktails, plus tempting cakes and traditional pastries. Live oriental duo and Argilla (Hubble-Buhle) provided to help you savour and relax in style and comfort.

AL WAHA: Open from sunset until midnight. Al Waha will offer their regular menu, plus such special refreshments as iraqi soup, timmer hundy, laban eiran, karakady and kamer el din. Plus, as is traditional, all drinks will be served with a dish of succulent dates.

OUTSIDE CATERING

For those of you who would prefer to break fast at home, we can cater a similar delicious iftar buffet and deliver right to your door for the ultimate dining convenience and comfort. As is traditional during the month of Ramadan, ghaqah will also be available at the time of your choice, arranged exclusively for you and your guests. Just call the banquet department on 245-5550, ext. 967 929 to place your order.

Sheraton Hotel

HUNT ROOM: Opens for iftar with a buffet of exquisite delicacies. **RICARDO:** Will be opened for dinner with live entertainment by the new duo - Franco - Regina. **COFFEE SHOP:** Will serve an iftar buffet and regular dinner with special menu items such as grilled items, mazza, etc. Enjoy Suhour from 12 pm to 3 am. **LOBBY:** Lady pianist Malgorzata Wejs plays in the lobby diwanly after iftar until the end of Ramadan.

SPORTS

Kuwait International Hotel FIT FOR LIFE: Qualified Austrian masseur specialising in foot reflexology, acupuncture, athletic and relaxation massage available everyday. Tennis clinics ongoing for all levels or play including junior, ladies and adult sessions with Frank Novak, an experienced Canadian coach and tennis professional. Classes total 4 weeks in length and meet twice each week. Private coaching also available and fun tennis sessions for the family. Ladies' Keep Fit classes on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Look good, feel great! Ladies' sauna now offers a 50 per cent discount on the usual entrance fee. Ladies' Day on Saturdays and Tuesdays from 9 am to 9 pm. Austrian instructor for swimming lessons. Courses start first week of every month on Sundays and Tuesdays, or Mondays and Wednesdays. For details please call: 2530000/8050 (recreation)

Hyderabad Sports Day

The committee for sports for celebration of 400-year anniversary of Hyderabad (Deccan) is organising a sports day on 27th April 1990 (for next day of 100) at Juleeb Al Shuwik ground (behind Juleeb Al Shuwik cinema). The schedule of programme is as follows: 9 to 12 am: Festival cricket match for veterans 12 to 2 pm: Break for Prayer and lunch 2 to 5 pm: Sports for ladies, children and agents.

5 to 6 pm: Formal inauguration of the festivities by Chief guest and Ambassador of India Sri Arun Kumar Budhiraja and prize distribution by Mrs Budhiraja.

The events are open for all present and former residents of Hyderabad and their families. No entry fees will be charged. Festival cricket match is open for veterans above 40 years (relaxable to 35 years). All veterans are requested to register their names with Dr Naidu (Tel: 4842578).

All Hyderabadis are requested to attend the sports day and inaugural function with families and friends in large numbers.

Yoga lessons

FOR FITNESS and slimming, Kuwait International Hotel offers Yoga lessons for ladies and men, every Sunday and Tuesday at 8.00 to 9.00 pm and on Friday from 10.30 to 11.30 am. For more information contact Antonie Kingma on 2533000 or Tanya on 5626529.

FILCHECK black and white

The Filipino Chess Club in Kuwait (FILCHECK) will hold its "Black and White Night" on Thursday, 12 April 1990 at 7.00 pm at the new Kabayan Restaurant.

As the name implies, all guests and participants are to come in black and white attire to celebrate the club's Third Firsts Affair featuring: 1) the induction of its first elected Board of Directors and Officers, 2) Awarding ceremony of the First Rated Chess Tournament and 3) last but not the least, the first party ever organised by the club.

Invitation for all members are now available at the club's headquarters. For details please contact Edward or Sammy 2402405.

Messilah Beach Hotel Club

WINDSURFING: 6 levels of windsurfing lessons for beginners and intermediates. Each level lasts about 3 hours. The instructor is the present British windsurfing champion. Private lessons on request.

WATER SKIING: 2 courses, one for beginners and one for progressing to monoskiing. **SPEED BOAT INSTRUCTION:** 140HP Larson. Course covers basic boat and engine maintenance, launching, piloting, mooring, etc.

SAILING: 6 levels for beginners and intermediates. Approximately 3 hours duration each level.

Each participant will be given a syllabus of training for their particular course. For further information please telephone 5624111 ext. 739.



KIH break fast with Dar Al-Seyassah

The Kuwait International Hotel last Sunday hosted an iftar buffet for the staff of Dar Al-Seyassah. The first of its kind, it was a reflection of the close working relationship between Kuwait International Hotel and Dar Al-Seyassah. On the hotel's side it was attended by Adnan Saad, public relations manager, and Nusrat Islam, media manager.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

G-7 gather for monetary talks

Yen in underdog role

PARIS, April 7. (Agencies) Finance ministers from the world's leading industrial countries began talks in Paris on global financial stability today, with the Japanese yen in the unlikely role of underdog. US Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, Japanese Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and British Chancellor of the Exchequer John Major were first to arrive at the French Finance Ministry. They were joined by West German Finance Minister Theo Waigel and counterparts from Canada and Italy for the one-day talks, hosted by French Finance Minister Pierre Bérégovoy. Central bank governors from the so-called Group of Seven (G-7) leading industrial nations were also taking part.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Fiat, Ford talks: Italian automaker Fiat said on Friday it had opened talks with Ford of the United States about co-operation in the agricultural vehicle and truck sectors.

Fiat said the talks "could lead to accords... at the international level, regarding the tractor and agricultural machinery sectors."

The company added: "Fiat and Ford also are involved in other talks to seek possible areas of co-operation in the sector of heavy industry vehicles."

Fiat SpA and Ford Motor Co. considered merging their European car operations five years ago but a Fiat spokesman said on Friday "Cars are not part of these discussions." (Reuters)

Eveready to lower mercury levels: Eveready Battery Co. has reduced the amount of mercury in its most popular-sized batteries in response to concerns about the long-term impact of heavy metals in the environment, company officials said Thursday.

The batteries with lower mercury levels include all of the company's AA, AAA, C, D and 9-volt energizer and conductor alkaline batteries.

An Eveready spokesman said all of the company's alkaline batteries now being shipped to stores are 99.975 per cent mercury-free. (UPI)

Kodak pleads guilty: Eastman Kodak Co. pleaded guilty Thursday to mishandling hazardous chemicals at its Kodak Park plant and agreed to \$2.15 million in fines and penalties.

Attorney-General Robert Abrams, in a plea agreement, charged Kodak with just two misdemeanor counts, despite what he called "decades of environmental abuse" by the photo giant.

The agreement ends a two-year civil and criminal investigation of Kodak. Environmental conservation commissioner Thomas Jorling said his department's investigation produced "evidence of a serious range of environmental problems." at Kodak Park. (AP)

Aerospatiale profits: France's leading aerospace group, Aerospatiale, announced in Paris Thursday that it has registered a net profit of \$204 million francs (\$35.17 million) in 1989, compared with 93 million francs in 1988.

The group's turnover for 1989 amounted to 31.7 billion francs (\$5.46 billion), 60 per cent of which in the export market.

Sales of aircraft, notably Airbus and ATR, totalled 12.1 billion francs (\$2.08 billion) representing 38.2 per cent of the turnover and that of helicopters reached 6.7 billion (\$1.15 billion) or 21 per cent of the turnover. (Kuna)

Italy, Venezuela, in \$137m deal: Agip, a petrochemical subsidiary of the Venezuelan State Oil Company, PDVSA, has signed a \$137 million contract with Tecnologia Progetti Lavori (TPL) of Italy and its Venezuelan partner, Ineletra, for the provision of technological and engineering know-how in a petrochemical project.

The project, termed Prak, would have a production capacity of 66,000 tonnes a year of ethylene glycol, used in the textile industry, and 16,000 tonnes of ethylene oxide, an emulsifier used in the petroleum industry. (Opecal)

Brazil Central Bank jet crashes: A Brazilian Central Bank business jet carrying a payroll of about \$2 million destined for state workers crashed late on Friday, killing two of the four crew members. Brazilian television reported.

The company Learjet crashed after unsuccessfully trying to land at Juiz de Fora, a business centre 178 kilometres inland from Rio de Janeiro, the news reports said.

Brazilian television showed firemen recovering currency at the crash site near the airport. The jet was carrying over 100 million cruzeiros, the equivalent of about \$2 million to pay state government employees in the interior state of Minas Gerais. (Reuters)

Greece CPI up 3.8 per cent in March: Greece's Consumer Price Index (CPI) for March rose 3.8 per cent over the previous month, and 17.8 over March 1990, the Economy Ministry said in figures published Friday.

The ministry said 2.14 per cent of the rise came at the end of the traditional winter sales when the price of the consumer goods returned to their normal, higher prices.

Price rises in sugar, cheese, newspapers, taxi rates and school fees contributed to the increase, the ministry said.

Swiss inflation picks up: Switzerland's annual inflation rate edged up to 5.0 per cent in March, the government said Friday.

The rise followed a slowdown to 4.9 per cent in February from 5.1 per cent in January.

The cost-of-living index rose 0.3 per cent last month, paced by prices of food, household goods and clothing, the federal statistics office said. (AP)

Kuwaiti interbank market quiet: The Kuwaiti interbank deposit market was fairly quiet after the weekend, with the only business taking place in the short dates.

The market was quiet in short dates, but there was little change in rates. Dealers said. Overnight was quoted at 8-1/2 to 8-5/8, as was spot, next, while one week was quoted at 8-1/2 to 8-3/4. Dealers said there was no activity in fixed rates.

The Central Bank fixed the dinar at 0.29379 to the dollar. (Reuters)

Saudi interbank market quiet: Dealers reported little activity in the Saudi interbank deposit market as work resumed after the weekend.

Short dates were quiet, with spot, next and one week quoted at 8-1/2 to 8-3/4. Longer dates eased slightly in line with dollar interest rates, and two months was quoted at 8-1/8 to 8-1/4, three months at 8-1/8 to 8-1/4 and one year at 8-1/2 to 8-3/4.

The spot rial was quoted at 3.7501/03 to the dollar. (Reuters)

Exchange rates

Indian rupee	17.170
Sri Lankan rupee	7.430
Pakistani rupee	13.730
Bangladesh taka	8.620
US dollar	294.30
Pound sterling	483.75
UAE dirham	0.8009
Deutsche mark	173.65
Japanese yen	001875

Oil prices plunge to lowest in 7 months

US imports of Iraqi oil surge; Norway plans oil fund

NEW YORK, April 7. (Agencies) Driven by a new market psychology since mid-week, crude oil prices plunged yesterday to their lowest level in seven months on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Gasoline again led the way, recording a drop of more than a penny a gallon for the third consecutive day.

The benchmark West Texas intermediate crude for May delivery dove 28 cents to \$19.15 a barrel on the Merc, the lowest closing price since Sept 5, the exchange said. The loss on the week was \$1.13 a barrel.

On the US Gulf coast spot market, where crude is bought and sold for cash, prompt delivery WTI dropped 30 cents to \$19.15 a barrel, \$1.20 below a week ago.

And three major oil companies - Sun Co. of Rudin, Pennsylvania, Marathon Oil Co. of USX Corp.'s Findlay, Ohio, Unit and Conoco Inc. Unit of Du Pont -

lowered the posted price they will pay for crude at the wellhead by 50 cents to \$18.25 a barrel for WTI, the lowest price since Sept 22.

They made a similar 50 cent reduction on Wednesday.

"There's been a change in the market psychology since Wednesday," said Randall Rothenberg of Dean Witter Reynolds' International energy futures group in New York.

Late on Tuesday, the oil industry's American Petroleum Institute reported the nation's crude inventories rose 11.8 million barrels in the previous two weeks.

The market elected on Wednesday to follow this price-depressing signal rather than a price-supporting 12.9 million-barrel decline in gasoline supplies in the same period.

"Ever since Wednesday, when gasoline took it on the chin, the pressure on crude

(prices) has been heavier. The APIs were probably the last straw. The market is still feeling the weight of too much crude," Rothenberg said.

The trader said, "the market needs to bring down the price enough to sop up the excess crude," he estimated that price to be about \$18.50 a barrel on the Merc.

Unleaded gasoline for May delivery fell 1.18 cents on the Merc to end the day at 62.11 cents a gallon, 3.25 cents less than a week ago.

On the New York harbour cash market, prompt delivery unleaded gasoline dropped 1.10 cents to 62.20 cents a gallon.

On the European spot market, Britain's widely traded North Sea Brent lost 35 cents to \$17 a barrel, down \$1.25 on the week.

United Arab Emirates' Dubai Light - the key Opec crude from the Middle East shipped mainly to the Far East - dropped

35 cents to \$14.85 a barrel, 75 cents less than a week ago.

US imports of Iraqi oil doubled recently, but US officials said yesterday the winter cold snap and Iraqi salesmanship were to account for this rather than any policy to help a nation threatening its neighbours with chemical warfare.

Washington encourages Iraqi purchases of US farm products through a one billion revolving credit agreement, but US officials say there is no US government policy encouraging American purchases of Iraqi oil.

Norway plans to divert revenue from North Sea oil into a fund to save cash for when its wells run dry.

A wide majority on parliament's all-party finance committee gave broad backing yesterday to creation of the fund, which would be used to cover future budget deficits.



Leaders of the three principal unions of United Airlines place their arms around each other on Friday after a New York press conference announcing the purchase of UAL Corp. in a \$4.2 billion deal that would create United States' largest employee-owned company. From left are Frederick Dubinsky of the pilots' union, Diane Robertson of flight attendants' union and John Peter Paul of the machinists' union. (Reuters wirephoto)

Workers buy UAL Corp for \$4.38 billion

CHICAGO, April 7. (AP) UAL Corp. directors agreed yesterday to a \$4.38 billion buyout by the company's employees, but some analysts doubted the viability of the deal that would make the parent of United Airlines the world's largest worker-owned corporation.

The three union groups which negotiated the \$201 a-share deal have not yet secured financing for the buyout, according to a source who was involved in the talks. Analysts said that weakness could prove fatal.

Leaders also may frown on the unions' plan to dump UAL chairman Stephen Wolf, who is perceived as a highly capable airline manager despite his difficult relations with the unions, analysts said.

The stock market reflected investor skepticism that the deal will be completed. After a strong opening, UAL was down \$2 a share at \$163.5 at the close of the New York Stock Exchange.

"The capitulation of the board has been significantly overshadowed by the continuing financing risks," said airline analyst Samuel Battick of Kidder Peabody and Co.

Those risks, he said, "make it a very uphill battle from the financing side."

UAL's board announced the tentative agreement at about 7:30 am CDT yesterday after meeting all night at the company's headquarters near Chicago. The leaders of unions representing United's pilots, machinists and flight attendants gave some additional details at a holiday news conference in New York.

Under the agreement, UAL shareholders would receive \$155 in cash, \$35 in UAL notes and an estimated \$11 worth of securities in UAL subsidiary Covia Corp. for each UAL share.

UAL would spin off to shareholders its entire 50 per cent stake in Covia, which is co-owned by a consortium of five other airlines and operated as an automated reservation system called Apollo.

Joint project

TOKYO, April 7. (Kuna) Two Japanese companies, Mitsubishi Electric and Toyo Menka will participate in a joint Egyptian-Jordanian electric power generating project, it was reported Saturday.

The first step is that an electricity-generating plant will be built in Egypt by June 1992 at a cost of \$75 million in a "full turnkey" formula, the two companies said.

Bid to save Gallimard Bank buys shares

PARIS, April 7. (Reuters) A major French bank yesterday announced it had purchased a share in the prestigious Gallimard publishing house to thwart predators seeking to profit from a bitter row between its family owners.

A spokesman for the state-owned Banque Nationale de Paris (BNP), one of France's three biggest banks, said Isabelle Gallimard, one of the four founding Gallimard children, had sold the bank her 12.5 per cent share in the company.

"We don't want Gallimard to fall into the hands of a foreign group," said the spokesman. "It must remain a part of the French cultural orbit."

Editions Gallimard is seen as the showcase of French publishing because of its independence and a copyright list which includes some of the world's greatest names to literature - Marcel Proust, Albert Camus and Jean-Paul Sartre.

But a damaging family squabble erupted in January between the grandchildren of founder Gaston Gallimard, whetting the appetites of corporate raiders keen for a bite of France's largest independent publisher.

French construction giant Bouygues has shown interest, but Antoine Gallimard, the firm's chief executive, said such an alliance would jeopardise Gallimard's unique position in French culture.

Banking sources said Bouygues offered to buy up the entire firm on the basis of a US bank evaluation early this year which put its worth at 1.8 billion francs (\$315 million).

The BNP spokesman said its price was far below an estimate by the Henry Ansbacher Inc investment bank, and said the deal with Isabelle was to help Antoine retain control of the firm.

Bombay shares

Bombay Stock Exchange prices (Rs)	210	206.25	205
April 6, '90	Pr. Close	Open	Close
ACC	434	424.50	420
Adm Niss	—	—	—
Al Faf	—	—	—
Ashtek Ltd	80	79	79
Asia Pami	227.50	227.50	225
Atlas Corp	35	34	33
Auto Corp	65	60	62.50
Nal Index	427.44	—	417.2
Bajaj Auto	436.25	432.50	437.50
Bar Rayon	877.50	870	874.50
Blow Plast	—	—	—
Bom Dye	208	205.50	203
BN Bond	117	110	115
Burr Wei	85	80	82.50
Canthart	—	—	—
Can Enka	3450	3275	3400
Can Sng	3120	3090	3070
Colgate	217.50	213.75	215
Crompt Gr	925	925	930
DCM	21	19	21
Deep Fern	30.50	30.50	29.75
Dunlop	57	55	57
ET Hotels	61	60	60
Escorts	87	85	86.50
BSF Index	794.44	—	770.74
Essex	135.50	132.50	131.25
Essar Spd	35.50	35.25	34.50
Food Spt	133	120	120
Forbes	52	50	52
Gar Poly	38	37.50	36
Gilinda	100	99	98.50
GNFC	40.25	39.50	40.25
Graham	127.50	126	122.50
GE Shpg	50.50	49.50	49.75
GSFC	170	172.50	171.25
Guj AIL	81.50	81.50	82.50
Guj Heavy	150	16	16.50
Hero Honda	18	15	16
Hind Ciba	1318	1300	1250
Hind Lever	116	115	113
Hind Coca	436	447.50	453
Hind Motor	26.50	25.50	25.75
Hindaleo	281.25	277.50	271.25
Hoechst	1930	1840	1820
Ingersoll	230	225	230
ITC	83.50	81	82
Ind Org	51	51	49.50
Ind Rayon	107	106	105
Indrol	210	206.25	205
JK Syn	62.50	60	60
Kin Engg	150	145	150
Kir Cumm	29	27.50	29
KSA Pumps	225	220	225
L & T	105	104	93
Lipco	92	92	92
Mac Russel	110	107.50	111.50
Mad Coats	116	110	112.50
Mahindra	87.50	82.50	82.50
Mas Share	18.25	18	18
Nico	665	860	860
Milkfood	210	200	205
Modi	48	46	48
MRF Ltd	205	195	200
Muk Iron	132	131	131
Noell	1360	1330	1388
Nat Org	—	—	—
Nippon	45	44	44.50
Oray	16.25	16.50	16.50
Oswal Agro	45	48.50	44
Pasco	81	79.50	77.50
Pfizer	220	215	217.50
Ponds	50	50	50
Prem Auto	96.25	95	97.50
Ranbaxy	81.50	81.50	81
Ray Wool	217.50	210	212.50
Reckitt	61	56.50	60
Reliance	100	99	97
Saw Gas	—	—	—
Shaw Wall	—	—	—
Shree Cam	—	—	—
Shri Fib	56	55	55
Siemens	120	117	118
SKF	1380	1380	1360
Spic	5	5	5.7
St Mills	73	78	76
Tata Oil	—	—	—
Tata Chem	122	121	121
Tata Pow	455	457.50	450
Telco	138	135	133
Thapp Agro	130.75	126	125.50
Vam Org	147.50	147.50	145
Vareh	—	—	—
Volras	77	77	76.50
Wimco	19	18.75	19
Zemth	54	53	53
Zuari Agro	58	58	57

Compiled by Kuwait-India International Exchange Co.

Soviet workers want to sell oil

NEW YORK, April 7. (UPI) In an event not nearly as publicised as Lithuania, but perhaps just as important to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's future, Soviet oil workers are proposing to sell oil directly on foreign markets to buy food and other goods.

In a recent issue of the weekly newspaper Moscow News, Siberian oil workers "proposed that the work collectively take 10-15 per cent of the oil and gas and sell it domestically and abroad at negotiated prices without paying anything to the state budget."

The workers said they would use the hard foreign currency to buy food and manufactured goods, said Robert Ebel, former US government intelligence analyst, now vice-president of Enserch Corp. in Washington, DC, said Monday.

In the last ten days, the oil workers have complained in another Soviet journal, Rabochaya Tribuna, that they produce the nation's oil and don't receive any benefit, the analyst said.

He noted, however, the workers said, "This is not an ultimatum."

Ebel, who closely monitors the Soviet oil industry, said, "Gorbachev is in a difficult situation, similar to Lithuania."

"If you give in to the oil workers, the line forms on the left," Ebel said.

He noted the Soviet leader had already set a precedent that may come back to haunt him by granting concessions to striking Soviet coal miners last fall.

The oil workers feel they have gotten little in return for their efforts over the years.

Oil is provided to the state for 23 roubles, or about \$4 or 5 a barrel, a fraction of what it would obtain on world oil markets, the analyst said.

The complaint in Moscow News was voiced by the Nizhnevartovsk group of oil workers' Collective, which pumps about 2 million barrels of the Soviet Union's 12.5 million barrels daily production, the world's largest.

Petroleum Intelligence Weekly said if the Collective decided to strike it might cause a walkout in the rest of the key Tyumen region, which accounts for 64 per cent of daily Soviet output.

The publication said the Nizhnevartovsk group could strike as early as this week.

It said Moscow had already granted the Tyumen workers a new incentive of 5 per cent to 20 per cent of the hard currency earned from production over and above the government's plan, which is set at 95 per cent of capacity.

Outputs, however, from "many fields are well above plan," the publication said.

PIW said Soviet output last year declined about 400,000 barrels daily from its peak in 1988 and that statistics from the International Energy Agency show exports to the West dropped 11 per cent, or 200,000 barrels daily.

As a result of diminishing returns, Moscow has cut back on its investment in Soviet oilfields, Ebel said.

To correct the deteriorating situation, Moscow is attempting to lure Western capital.

Windmere wins \$100m ruling against Philips

MIAMI, April 7. (AP) A federal jury has awarded approximately \$100 million to Windmere Corp. in an antitrust suit charging that the Dutch company NV Philips had monopolised the rotary shaver market.

The verdict came in a counterclaim by Windmere against Philips and its subsidiary North American Philips Co., makers of the Norelco shaver. Philips had initially filed suit in the case against Windmere, charging unfair competition.

The jury cleared Windmere on that charge, accepting the US company's contention that Philips had attempted to monopolise the market through predatory pricing in violation of

the Sherman act. "We're very pleased with the jury's verdict," said David Friedman, president and chief executive officer of Windmere. "We're going to have a good party."

The jury awarded Windmere \$29.8 million, which is trebled automatically under the Sherman act to \$89.6 million. The jury also awarded reasonable attorneys' fees, interests and costs, bringing the estimated total to more than \$100 million.

"The rotary shaver war was started by Philips in 1984 as part of an attempt to drive Windmere out of the rotary business," said Gary Hoffman, an attorney for Windmere.

Bechtel group designing a Soviet silicon valley

SAN FRANCISCO, April 7. (Reuters) The Soviet Union has asked one of the world's largest engineering and construction firms to study the possibility of turning the research community of Troitsk into a high technology centre.

San Francisco-based Bechtel Group said it has signed an agreement with the Soviet Union

BUSINESS

Bush applauds Japan moves

Stresses need for concrete results

WASHINGTON, April 7, (UPI) President George Bush applauded Japanese moves to permit more US trade and investment, but he stressed yesterday the need to see concrete results from the lowering of trade barriers.

The United States and Japan announced Thursday an agreement on economic reforms by both countries aimed at reducing the \$49 billion US trade deficit with Japan.

"The government of Japan and Prime Minister (Toshiki) Kaifu — and I salute him — have shown true leadership," Bush told the convention of the American Society of Newspaper Editors.

"We have had real success. For the first time Japan is committed to removing a broad array of structural barriers that constrain trade and impede imports," Bush said.

He added, nevertheless, that changing the economies of the two countries will be a long and complex process.

Growth of US economy slows

Slack job market

WASHINGTON, April 7, (Reuters) The US economy looks to have fallen back into a rut as its growth rate slowed to its lowest level in over a year.

The figures square with the economy being in a recession on the manufacturing side and growing slowly on the services side," said Allen Sinai, chief economist for Boston Co.

Despite the addition of thousands of census workers hired by the government to conduct its 10-year population count, total payrolls excluding agricultural workers grew by only 26,000 last month after a revised 356,000 gain in February.

That was the weakest monthly pace of new job creation since 1986 and overshadowed news of a dip in the unemployment rate to 5.2 percent from 5.3 percent in March.

The news sparked an immediate rise in US bond and stock markets on hopes of lower US interest rates, but prices fell back later as traders reassessed the significance of the data.

The Dow Jones Industrial Index closed about four points lower on Friday at 2717. US bond prices were little changed.

Economists said the jobless data, the first official look at activity in March, painted a picture of an economy ebbing along at a low ebb, but not one poised for a sudden downturn.

Although the increase in payrolls was smaller than expected, economists said the slowdown was natural after construction and other firms took advantage of a warmer-than-normal winter to hire more workers earlier this year.

"January and February were distorted by weather. March represented the payoff," said Douglas Schindewolf of Smith Barney, Harris Upham and Co Inc.

But that explanation might not hold water with the Bush administration which is worried that slower economic growth will swell the government budget deficit by pushing up spending and cutting tax revenues.

"Thank God we have a growing economy," President George Bush told newspaper editors here on Friday. "The (budget deficit) problem would be a lot worse if we didn't."

David Jones, senior economist with Aubrey Lansdon and Co in New York, said the administration might increase its "arm-twisting" to persuade the Central Bank to make credit easier.

That could mean that Fed chairman Alan Greenspan might find himself the odd man out at this weekend's meeting in Paris of economic policymakers from major countries in holding out against a US rate cut.

While the Bush administration wants lower US interest rates to ensure continued US economic growth, other nations, particularly Japan, want an easier US monetary policy to help rein in the dollar.

The United States is becoming dangerously dependent on Japan and the solution lies with American rather than Japanese policies, a group of economists, industrialists and lawmakers say in a new report.

Complete results will not come quickly, "but they can and they must come," Bush said. "Neither the Japanese consumer nor the American people would be convinced that progress is at hand until they see concrete results."

US officials said the trade agreement's main beneficiaries would be "Japanese consumers, who now have to pay 40 per cent more for goods than someone living in New York, and US companies" wanting to do business in Japan.

The pact will essentially allow US entrepreneurs the opportunity to do in Japan "the same things that the Japanese investor and trader does happily and frequently in our market," US trade representative Carla Hills said.

In Tokyo, Kaifu said his nation must bear the pain of the measures promised to open its markets.

"It is my conviction, however, that they are essential in furthering Japan's own national interest and that they are the kind of duties Japan must discharge as a responsible member of the international community," Kaifu said in a nationally televised speech.

Stephen Bosworth, executive director of US-Japan foundation and a former state department official, noted that the agreement "is a statement of intent, and confirming action is going to be required by the Japanese diet."

Nevertheless, Bosworth called the pact a "significant move on the part of the two governments and certainly demonstrates the seriousness of the Japanese government."

In four days of talks in Washington, Japan promised changes in six areas economic and legal areas (that contribute to the US trade deficit).

The Japanese promised to try to mop up their enormous savings — now partially directed toward investments overseas — by investing more in their own infrastructure.

Private economists said that US engineering and construction companies could benefit from the provisions that should allow them to compete for massive public works projects in Japan.

Japan's rapid growth is fast outstripping its infrastructure and the country is in dire need of new roads, airports, harbour and other public works, said Robert Gay, senior economist at Morgan Stanley and Co.



Newman's trial

Actor Paul Newman listens to a reporter's questions as he leaves Bridgeport, Connecticut Superior Court on April 4 as jurors began deliberations in the "Newman's Own" salad dressing trial. Newman, a Westport, Conn., delicatessen owner, claims that Newman cheated him out of profits from sales of the salad dressing. (Reuters wire-photo)

from the administration, to Congress to the industry," said Sen. Bob Graham.

In past appearances before congressional committees, Seidman has conceded that last year's bailout probably is underfunded. The administration, however, has suggested it could get by through early appropriation of about \$30 billion intended for savings and loans failures after 1992.

Michael Boskin, chairman of the White House council of economic advisers, declined to comment on the report but promised, "we'll analyze it in detail."

The GAO's new estimate includes interest payments spread over 40 years, but the bulk of the \$25 billion will be needed during the 1990s. Taxpayers will have to pick up most of the \$68 billion increase, Boswin said. That likely would push their share of the total above 200 billion, with the savings and loans industry paying the rest.

"We are looking here at a huge, number as far as what the American taxpayer is going to have to pay," he said.

The administration had planned to spend \$50 billion to cover losses in savings and loans that fall through 1992, but Boswin said it would need at least 13 billion more.

The nation's \$2,500 savings and loans are banks that make personal and mortgage loans. Due to adverse economic circumstances and mismanagement, hundreds of them got into financial difficulties in recent years. The 13,000 US commercial banks, which primarily make business loans, were largely unaffected by the crisis.

Market shows weakness

Alshall stock price indices for the period from March 28, 1990 to April 4

Alshall Index for Kuwaiti shareholding companies recorded on Wednesday Apr. 4, 1990 an average of 39.95 points with a decrease of 0.06 point — 0.15 per cent — from last week's average of Wednesday 28, 1990. Alshall Index for non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies reached 65.05 points as last week.

The trading volume for Kuwaiti shares reached 13.17 million shares at a daily average of 2.63 million shares with a decrease of 54 per cent from the previous week's daily average of 5.72 million shares. Non-Kuwaiti traded shares reached 0.820 million shares at a daily average of 0.164 million shares with a decrease of 91 per cent from last week's daily average of 1.841 million shares. The value of Kuwaiti traded shares was KD4.83 million at a daily average of KD0.97 million, a decrease of 33 per cent from last week's daily average of KD1.44 million. The value of non-Kuwaiti traded shares was KD0.041 million at a daily average of KD0.008 million, a decrease of 88 per cent from last week's daily average of KD0.068 million.

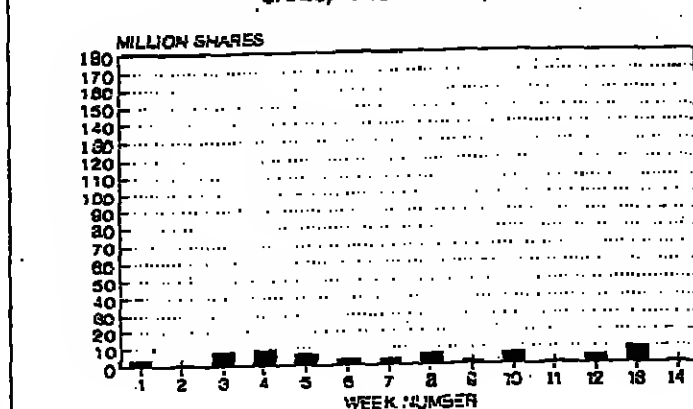
NBK lead

For the Kuwaiti shares market, the banking sector came first at 60 per cent of total trading against 31 per cent last week. The National Bank of Kuwait had the lead at 28 per cent followed by Kuwait Finance House at 22 per cent and The Gulf Bank at 21 per cent. The services sector came second at 20 per cent in which the Kuwait Commercial Markets Complex Company had the lead at 63 per cent followed by Mobile Telephone Systems Company at 37 per cent. The investment sector came third at 18.5 per cent in which Kuwait Investment Projects Company had the lead at 43 per cent followed by Coast Investment and Development Company at 31 per cent, and National Investment Company at 26 per cent. As for the non-Kuwaiti shares market, Bahrain International Bank had the lead at 68 per cent, followed by Arabian General Investment Company (Shua'a) at 32 per cent.

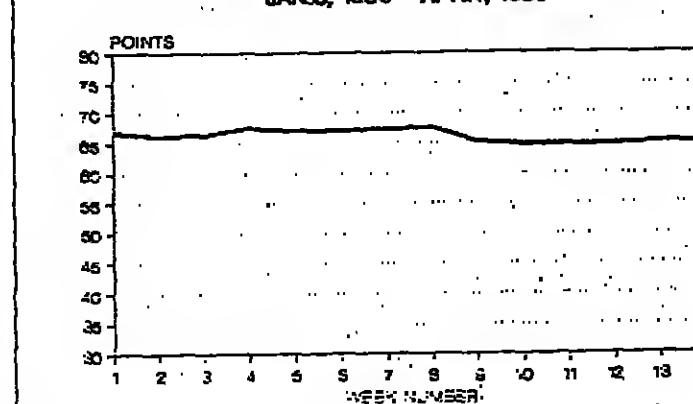
Same level

The shares market gave signs of weakness which was reflected on five of the six indices while the sixth remained at the same level as last week's. We believe that this weakness is the usual trend in market activity and the past increase in trading was an exception. Only one (1) non-Kuwaiti listed company declared dividend, which increases the percentage of companies that declared distributions in that market to 50 per cent. On the 5th of April 1990 total companies listed in all three markets — Kuwaiti, non-Kuwaiti and parallel — that distributed dividends reached 32 out of a total of 52 listed companies. The percentage of companies that declared distributions reached 62 per cent, while 38 per cent of listed companies did not declare any distributions. We believe that at least one (1) company might still declare distributions.

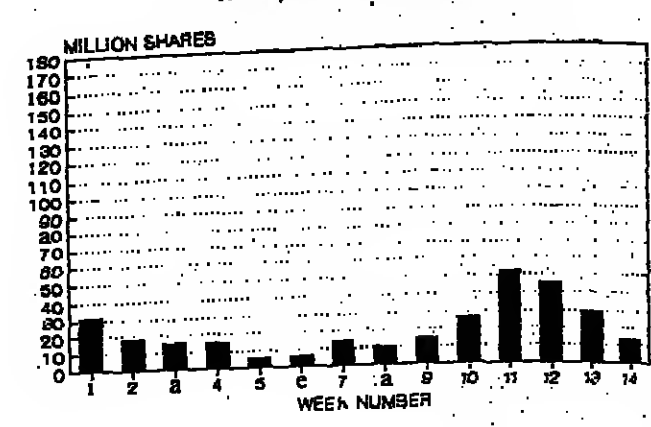
NON-KUWAITI SHAREHOLDING COMPANIES WEEKLY TRADING VOLUME FROM JAN. 3, 1990 - APR. 4, 1990



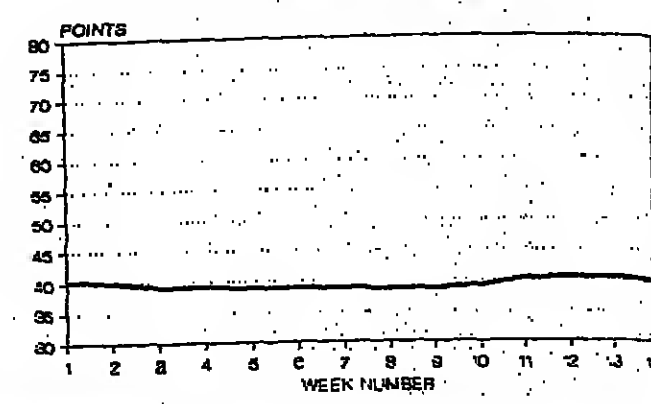
ALSHALL PRICE INDEX NON-KUWAITI SHAREHOLDING COMPANIES FROM JAN. 3, 1990 - APR. 4, 1990



KUWAITI SHAREHOLDING COMPANIES WEEKLY TRADING VOLUME FROM JAN. 3, 1990 - APR. 4, 1990



ALSHALL PRICE INDEX KUWAITI SHAREHOLDING COMPANIES FROM JAN. 3, 1990 - APR. 4, 1990



Alshall Kuwait shareholding companies index

Kuwait shareholding companies index				Ind. Sector			
	Wed. 4/4/90	Wed. 22/03/90	Change points	Kt. Cmt. Co.	10.22	10.22	—
				Ref. Ind.	84.55	84.55	—
				Gulf Cables	113.13	111.13	—
				Kt. Pharm.	60.44	60.44	—
				Sector Index	28.90	28.90	—
Banking Sector				Services Sector			
The National Bk	129.20	129.20	—	Kt. Cmptr. Co.	131.76	131.76	—
The Gulf Bk	31.31	31.31	—	Kt. Cinema Co.	7.13	7.13	—
The Comm. Bk	25.03	24.59	0.44	Pub. W'house Co.	60.61	60.61	—
Al Ahli Bk	31.29	31.29	—	Kt. Comm. M. Co.	37.29	35.45	1.84
Bk of Kt & ME	30.12	30.63	-0.50	M. Tele. Syst.	360.00	360.00	—
Kuwait R. Est. Bk	29.35	29.35	—	Sector Index	59.59	59.41	0.18
Burgan Bk	27.06	27.06	—	Food Sector			
Kt Finance House	81.72	81.72	—	L. Trad. & Transp.	29.29	29.29	—
Sector Index	49.83	49.83	—	Utd Fisheries	11.05	11.05	—
Inv. Sector				Kt. Utd Poultry	110.01	110.01	—
Kuwait Inv. Co.	8.72	8.72	—	Kt. Food Co.	75.86	75.86	—
Kt. Int. Inv. Co.	8.59	8.59	—	Sector Index	39.88	39.88	—
IFA	24.19	24.19	—	Overall Index	39.95	40.02	-0.06
Comm. Facilities	162.25	162.25	—	Non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies index			
National Inv.	55.88	57.84	-1.96		Wed. 4/4/90	Wed. 28/03/90	Change points
Kt. Inv. Proj.	88.76	89.89	-1.12	First G. Bk.	236.84	236.84	—
Coast Inv. & Dev.	83.53	84.71	-1.18	Bah. Intl. Bk.	82.76	82.76	—
Sector Index	32.02	32.32	-0.30	Bah. M.E. Bk.	94.92	94.92	—
Ins. Sector				A. Gen. Inv. (Shuaa)	43.94	43.94	—
Kt. Ins. Co.	35.88	35.88	—	Umm Al Q. Cmt.	18.00	18.00	—
Gulf Ins. Co.	23.08	23.08	—	G. Med. Projs.	13.13	13.13	—
Al Ahlia Ins.	50.18	50.18	—	Total Index	65.05	65.05	—
Warba Ins. Co.	50.69	50.69	—	—Base period 31/12/1983.			
Sector Index	35.63	35.63	—	—All the companies listed by the Stock Exchange under non-Kuwaiti companies are included.			
Real Est. Sec.							
Kt. Real Est.	12.11	12.11	—				
Utd. Realty	4.98	5.47	-0.50				
Nat. Real Est.	39.42	39.42	—				
Pearl of Kt.	63.49	63.49	—				
Sector Index	15.13	15.39	-0.26				

Investors bracing for a new round

Markets show mixed trend despite upbeat thoughts

NEW YORK, April 7, (AP) Stock market investors are bracing for a new round of negative earnings news over the next few weeks as corporations post results for the first quarter of 1990.

But after that, the firm projects small gains in the third quarter, perhaps quickly expanding to record levels as 1990 comes to a close. If they follow such a script, profits could finish the year with a small net gain over 1989.

Corporate America has not thrown in the towel on 1990," says Stephen Roach, economist at the investment banking firm of Morgan Stanley and Co.

"That's a bold assertion, to say the least, but one that draws ample support from what is shaping up to be a pleasant surprise on corporate profits," asserts Michael Sherman, investment strategist at Shearson Lehman Hutton Inc.

In the last half of 1989, by Sherman's reckoning, operating earnings for the companies that make up Standard and Poor's 500-stock composite index showed an average decline of four per cent.

Shenroo estimates that the quarter ended March 31 will see a 5.7 per cent drop from the like period last year, to be followed by a two per cent shortfall in the second quarter.

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swing to profits is the subject of much disagreement. "An earnings pickup will be delayed 'till late 1990," argues Thomas Doeringer at PaineWebber Inc.

But for next year he projects a 13 per cent improvement from 1990 levels. "This forecast implies that the Fed will successfully engineer an anti-inflationary 'soft landing,'" he says.

Despite such upbeat thoughts, the stock market managed only a mixed showing in the past week. The Dow Jones average of 30 industrials rose 9.91 to 2,717.12.

The New York Stock Exchange composite index slipped .07 to 186.78; the Nasdaq composite index for the over-the-counter market fell 4.64 to 430.90, and the American Stock Exchange market value index was down .74 at 361.01.

Volume on the big board averaged 143.97 million shares a day, against 132.31 million the week before. For the immediate future, one point of particular concern for many

analysts is earnings in the banking industry.

Entangled as they are in many of the debt problems the economy is grappling with — ranging from junk bonds and Third World loans to real estate — the banks now face what looks like a long period of exacting scrutiny by federal regulators looking into their lending practices.

"We suspect that the president, the treasury and the Federal Reserve are going to have something to say about how this process unfolds," observed Sherman.

"In the end, it is healthy that the office (of the controller of the currency) is forcing banks to tighten up their lending standards."

"However, the economic repercussions of these actions should be controlled, and will be controlled, before they do major damage to the total economy."

Analysts said the market acquitted itself well in what was a dismal week for the Tokyo market. For the week, Tokyo's blue-chip Nikkei index tum-

bled 701.67 points.

On Monday, stocks closed slightly lower after the blue chips almost erased an early sharp drop sparked by the second-worst loss on the Tokyo market.

Tokyo stocks suffered their second-largest one-day decline Monday, losing 6.6 per cent of their value, or 1,978.38 points, amid speculation that Japan's economic boom could be coming to an end.

Analysts blamed the plunge on a falling Japanese yen, rising interest rates and a report that insurance companies, major investors in the market, had moved to sell stocks.

The Finance Ministry, attempting to stop the market plunge, said it investigated and found the report to be groundless.

The dollar was slightly lower against most currencies in New York trading yesterday as players acted on weaker-than-expected US jobs data, to trim dollar holdings ahead of a weekend Group of Seven meeting.

US automakers and oil companies begin joint research to evaluate wide range of fuels

DEARBORN, Michigan, April 7, (UPI) The United States' big three automakers and 14 oil companies on Thursday officially began a massive joint research effort to evaluate a wide range of fuels for use in both current and future vehicles.

During a ceremony at Ford Motor Co.'s testing labs in Dearborn, Michigan, representatives from automakers and oil companies said data should start becoming available as early as this summer to determine what benefits, if any, such fuels have to air quality.

The auto/oil air quality improvement research

programme is virtually the first of its kind between General Motors Corp., Chrysler Corp. and Ford as allowed under pre-competitive guidelines of anti-trust law.

It also involves major oil companies, among them Exxon, Shell Oil Co., Arco, Chevron Corp., Sun Co., Texaco Inc. and BP America Inc.

The programme, whose results will be made available to all interested parties, is also viewed as a signal from the auto and oil industries to clean air legislators in Washington that much has yet to be learned about alternative fuels before any mass

manufacturing commitments can be made.

"We want to be ready with scientific data on which the country can base its air quality strategy," said Helen O. Petruskas, Ford's vice president of environmental and safety engineering.

"There is currently no data about these fuels that any sensible rulemaking can be based on," said Joe Colucci, head of GM's fuel and lubricants division. "Such rules have to be based on data, not perception." The marketing of such cars is also a major concern as automakers press the government for some sort of consumer incentives to promote their

sale if they are forced to build them in mass numbers.

Although a methanol/gasoline mix seems to be among the front-runners in most alternative fuel programmes, a wide array of gasoline formulations will be looked at, said Donald Buis, director of Ford's automotive emissions and fuel economy office.

That includes reformulated gasoline, which appears to be less polluting but also less efficient on a miles-per-gallon basis and potentially more expensive, than the current unleaded gasoline, he said.

Why it can be a disaster if you don't get your eight hours

Some people in vital jobs — like airline pilots and hospital doctors — are putting lives at risk because of irregular sleep patterns, says an expert. He tells Faith Mall why he believes the problem may also have caused tragedies.

TRAGEDIES like the Chernobyl nuclear leak may have happened because of... someone not getting enough sleep.

And lack of proper rest could have caused other major catastrophes, according to sleep expert Dr Jim Horne.

Under stress, people's sleep patterns are disrupted and this leads to poor performance at work. "That's when wrong decisions are made," Dr Horne told me.

"Employees who played key roles may have been affected by this."

Sleep problems can have bizarre side-effects, too. "Someone who couldn't sleep tried to strangle his wife in bed because he was under so much stress," said Dr Horne, director of the Sleep Research Laboratory at Loughborough University, Leicestershire.

"And we found a woman who had high blood pressure because her sleep was disturbed by her husband's snoring."

Along with other sleep experts, Dr Horne has helped to set up the British Sleep Society to study why some people can't always get their eight hours.

Among the worst victims of sleep problems are hospital doctors and airline pilots. Dr Horne said: "Junior hospital doctors can work as many as 72 hours with only a few hours' sleep. This can affect their judgement and put patients' lives at risk."

"Senior doctors were asked whether they thought their hours of duty were so long as to impair their ability to work with adequate efficiency. Out of the 2,450 doctors asked, one third said working long hours without sleep always or often affected the way they did their job."

Dr Horne believes even a night's sleep and a day off don't enable them to recover the sleep they have lost, so performance can still be bad.

"Patients suffer because a sleepy, irritable doctor is unlikely to have much time to spend with the person, so the quality of care is poor," he said.

Airline pilots also suffer because they keep hopping international time zones. "Their sleep pattern is completely disrupted. They don't know whether they're coming or going and this can affect critical judgements, putting passenger lives at risk," he said.

Medical condition affects concentration during the day. "We have evidence that school pupils doing exams and people going for promotion have often flopped because of it," said Dr Horne. "They're simply not as alert as people who have had the proper quota of sleep."



Doctors are skilled... but what if they haven't had enough sleep.



People who have had the right amount of sleep fair better at interviews.

But it is not just a question of how much sleep you have. The type of sleep is crucial. "A typical night's sleep is made up of light, dreaming and deep sleep," said Dr Horne. "Light sleep makes up more than over half, dreaming sleep a quarter and deep sleep the remainder."

"As long as you have the right amount of dreaming and deep sleep, you should be all right because you are getting quality sleep."

"Light sleep is less important and often, if you sleep for only a few hours, you can wake the next day feeling fine if you've had a quality snooze."

"That's why you feel refreshed after a deep sleep and tired after a light sleep. The time of deepest sleep, when the body and brain have almost shut down, is after midnight."

On a grim note, the most likely time of death is around 4 am while asleep, although staying awake can be pretty deadly too! "Studies in America show that the majority of car accidents take place between 1 am and 4 am, most of them caused by drivers falling asleep at the wheel," said Dr Horne.

Railway accidents often happen in the small hours too. "Emergency braking incidents on trains reach a peak between 3 am and 6 am," he said.

"And in Sweden, out of 1,000 train drivers interviewed, 11 per cent admitted dozing off at least once on every night trip."

Four major nuclear reactor accidents have also taken place in the early hours of the morning.

Dr Horne said: "A reactor at the Three Mile Island nuclear plant developed a fault at 4 am, probably due to human error. Shiftworkers failed to spot the fault for some time and wrong actions were taken and a disaster was only narrowly avoided."

"The error was probably caused by sleepiness. Human mistake is believed to be the cause of Chernobyl, which again began at the critical time of 1.23 am."

So can the body adapt to working at night? "If you give yourself a couple of weeks of uninterrupted night work while sleeping by day, your body clock will change and you'll be quite alert at night."

"But most people work nights for only a few shifts at a time and even a weekend off — of going back to your old sleeping habits — will change the body clock back."

The first night on shifts is the worst. No sleep has been taken since the previous night, so most people become grouchy and behave irrationally.

"So people doing dangerous or sensitive night work should be given undemanding work if

accidents are to be avoided," said Dr Horne. "But there is a type of sleeper who adapts better to working at night — the 'owl'."

Dr Horne and fellow members of the British Sleep Society believe everyone is either an owl or a lark.

"Owls are evening types who are late risers and are most mentally alert at around 10 pm. Larks are morning people. They get up early and have reached their mental peak by late morning."

"Half the adult population are morning or evening types, the rest fall somewhere in the middle."

But how do you tell one from the other? "Simple. Just ask them how they would cope with exercise or a brain-teasing task at either 7 am or 10 pm."

"Larks will be happy with the earlier time but horrified at the thought of the evening time. Owls, on the other hand, will prefer to exercise both mind and body at 10 pm when they are more alert."

But why do both types feel the urge to have an afternoon nap? "Many people feel an overpowering feeling of sleepiness in the early afternoon — drooping eyelids, eyes slowly rolling up and down and head falling forward."

"This is because the body's clock is set to bring sleep twice a day, at night and in the early afternoon. That's why Europeans have siestas. An afternoon siesta will allow most adults to stay up later in the night."

But most people also believe food can cause afternoon drowsiness. And the bigger the lunch, the greater the sleepiness. This is probably caused by a rise in blood insulin levels after the meal."

Luochu drinking plays its part, too. "Alcoholic drinks interact with the rhythm of sleep and that is why most people find that even one pint of beer or a double spirit at lunchtime has a noticeable effect."

So what is the answer to afternoon sleepiness? Dr Horne said: "Coffee can be helpful. So can mild exercise and a blast of cold air on the face. Or try a cat-nap of about 15 minutes."

"Otherwise sleep really sets in and you can wake up feeling groggy and far sleepier than you were to begin with."

One way or another, it seems you just can't beat eight hours of uninterrupted slumber.

From Hollywood

Quantum leap for Julia

By Vernon Scott

AS a TV soap actress, Julia Campbell was a bottom-dweller in the film industry's caste system.

Riding at the top of the hierarchy is the movie star: Kevin Costner, Meryl Streep. Next comes the movie character actor: Jason Robards, Olympia Dukakis. Then come TV's sitcom stars — Bill Cosby, Roseanne Barr — followed by TV drama stars, Ed Asner, Angela Lansbury.

A fathom or two below them come made-for-TV-movie stars: Richard Chamberlain, Lindsay Wagner. Nearing the bottom, there are TV's second bananas: Richard Moll, Rue McClanahan.

Then comes the bottom — the soap "star." Prestige, of course, has little to do with earnings or even popularity. Cosby and Barr earn more every year than do Costner or Streep. And TV performers are seen by millions of people at a sitting. Movie performers play to the hundreds, or thousands if you count wide release.

All the same, it is the goal of most TV performers to become movie stars. Film stars don't have to work as hard or as often. They are well paid, more respected and, by and large, play more interesting and challenging roles.

Some performers move up in the hierarchy from TV to films. Bruce Willis is a prime example. Some move up and bomb — Roseanne Barr, for instance. A handful have done both — Michael J. Fox, Shelly Long.

Much more rare is the quantum leap from the sub-basement, soaps. But Campbell did it, leap-frogging from soap operas to a co-starring role with comedian Dana Carvey in the current top-10 film *Opportunity Knocks*.

Campbell spent a year each in two soaps, *Ryan's Hope*, and *Santa Barbara*, as have scores of other anonymous young actresses who doubtless dreamed of broader horizons.

Not only has she made an impressive debut in a mainstream movie, she stars in the new TV series *The Witches of Fastwick*.

"There comes a time when you're working in soaps that you decide whether you want to limit your career to daytime series acting," said the former army brat who grew up on bases scattered around the world.

Abandoning daytime TV was relatively easy. She was fired, twice.

"It wasn't that they were displeased with my work," she said, laughing. "The turnover on both shows is amazing. The writers can't figure out what to do with characters, so they write them out."

"They fire you when they don't know where a character is going. *Ryan's Hope* gave me a fabulous story line, but everyone involved left. So I remained as a kind of oddball character with two years left on my contract. My agents said, 'If you're not going to use her, let her go.'"

"Then I went on *Santa Barbara*. They teamed me up with a guy the viewers didn't approve of. So they fired him and others I played opposite until they found a guy they wanted to build up. They made a murderer out of my character and that finished me off. I got canned again."

"Leaving the soaps was the best thing that happened to me. My characters were great, acting wise. I got a lot of experience and fan mail. I was lucky, too, because I didn't stay around long enough to get locked into either role, which is what happened to Susan Lucci with her role of Erica Kane. No one associates me with Katie Ryan or Courtney Capwell."

"Immediately after I left *Santa Barbara*, ABC-TV offered me a three-year contract for yet another soap, *All My Children*."

"By that time I had made the important decision not to spend more time in soaps. I kept saying no when they badgered me to accept the part."

"My agent advised me to take the ABC job because he didn't want me to be hurting financially. He promised to get me a lot of money. I fired my agent and got a new one."

"Almost immediately I was cast in a prime-time comedy series, *Women in Prison*, playing the lead for 13 weeks."

KALGOORLIE, Australia, (Reuters): His weathered hand clasping a fist full of dollars, Dave Sheehan leans back against the wall of his two-up gambling ring in the middle of the Australian outback.

In the centre of the ring is a blustering 43 degrees Centigrade (109 Fahrenheit) heat as his son Dave tosses two coins high into the air.

"It's never too hot to stop the game," says Dave senior with a wry smile.

Two-up is a game in which gamblers bet on how two old pennies from Australia's pre-decimal currency days will land after being thrown into the air.

The coins are placed on a piece of wood, one showing the "tail" side and one showing the "head" side, and bets are placed on whether they will both land showing heads or tails.

In Australia gambling is regarded as a national pastime, but in this mining town in the heart of the western Australian goldfields, it's more akin to a religion.

In 1983 when the two-up ring was briefly forced to close by police, one old-time player who died had his ashes scattered

Gambling craze in Australia

It's never too hot to stop the game!

over the ring. Another at the turn of the century had his mates toss the pennies on his coffin before covering it with dirt.

Situated in the middle of a hostile desert environment, not unlike Las Vegas, Kalgoorlie has always been driven by the lure of instant wealth.

"This place is rotten keen on gambling," said Geoff Brabazon, secretary of the Kalgoorlie-Boulder racing club.

"It was founded by gamblers looking for gold and it's never changed," he said.

Dave Sheehan and his four sons, plus a silent partner, run the Kalgoorlie bush two-up school seven km (four miles) north of the town.

It's an incongruous site — a large circular tin shed with its roof cut out, surrounded by a fleet of cars and taxis in the middle of nowhere.

As the temperature soars, Dave's eldest son Bill rips a sheet of tin from the wall.

"There, a bit of air-conditioning," he laughs, as a swirl of dust and heat wreaks havoc with the piles of 50 and 100 dollar bills around the ring.

Despite its transient appearance the ring, which has operated in various locations in and around Kalgoorlie since the late 1800s when the town was the centre of the Australian Goldrush, is an institution.

Four buses turn off at the crudely-painted tin sign declaring "two-up" and make the journey along the bumpy dirt tracks that lead to the ring.

But tourists are a minor distraction to Dave, whose calloused hands and gnarled feet testify to a lifetime in the goldfields, and the school's hardy regulars, who often travel the 600 km (370 miles) from Perth for a week of gambling.

Two-up is a serious game where tens of thousands of dollars can change hands in an afternoon.

"I wouldn't try talking to the boys when they're playing. Even I keep my mouth shut," said Dave, who was quite happy to shut, having already lost 1,000 dollars (\$750) and pulled out of the game.

Dave became involved in running two-up after World War Two, and for 37 years

played a cat and mouse game with local police.

He would drive around town picking up players in his red Chevy and then head into the bush, while police would climb the local clock tower to follow his dusty path with binoculars.

"I've been pinched a few times," he said laconically. "No matter where we went they seemed to find us."

In 1983 the game was closed for a month and many old-time players died.

"A lot of them lived alone in camps, either as widowers or bachelors, and the game gave them a sense of purpose," said Dave's youngest son Dan.

"Maybe the two-up's demise added a morose note to their existence and gave some of them little will to live," he said.

When the game was finally legalised it found a permanent home at Brown Hill, an oddly named spot as there's not a hill in sight.

Dave believes legality has improved the game.

The blueprint of life

BY the year 2000, scientists hope to have compiled the "Book of Man" which will identify the estimated 100,000 genes which determine everyone's individual characteristics, from hair and eye colour to susceptibility to disease.

The diseases which cause most of the ill health and early deaths in modern industrialised society — heart disease, many forms of cancer, mental illnesses such as schizophrenia and auto-immune disorders such as arthritis — have a significant genetic component.

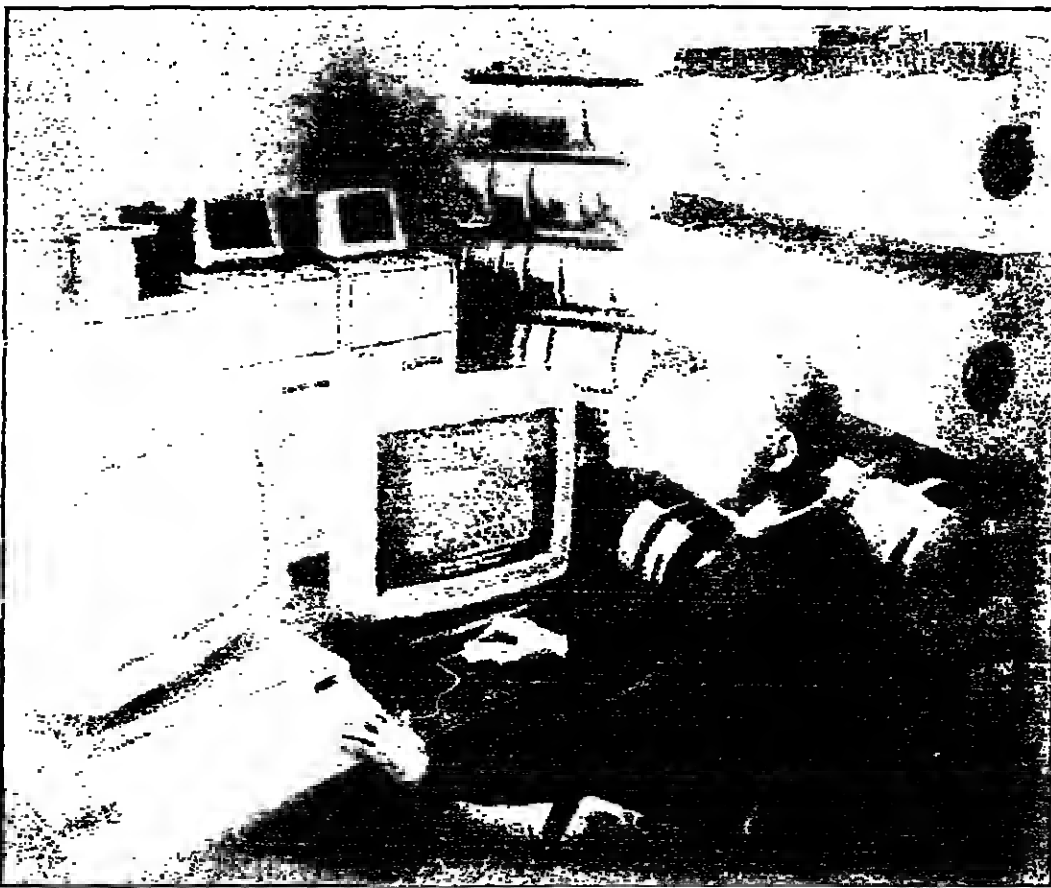
At the Imperial Cancer Research Fund in London, scientists are participating in the international project which already involves 220 research groups in 23 countries and being co-ordinated by the Human Genome Mapping Organisation (Hugo). A star performer in the computational aspects of the project is the British supercomputer, the DAP 610, which can handle 40 billion operations per second.

Developed by Active Memory Technology of Reading, near London, it has 4,096 processors and a design which is described as massively parallel the key to searching large amounts of data very quickly. A genetic database which could previously be scanned in hours or even days, can now be scanned in minutes.

The first task for scientists is to decipher the genome. This is spelled out in an incredibly long message — its words, or genes, contain a total of 3 billion letters. However, their alphabet is extremely limited, consisting only of 4 letters, or "base pairs" where bases are conventionally dubbed a, c, t, and g. It is the order in which the 4 allowed pairings of bases appear that determines what they mean. So far, about 25 million of these 3 billion letters have been read. These are held in databases across the world. But comparing new information with that already in the databases is an incredibly laborious process — hence the need for the DAP 610.

At the Fund's headquarters in London, one of the researchers wanted to identify a segment of protein taken from the blood cells of a patient with leukaemia. "We just typed in the new sequence and set the programme running," said a researcher. Ten minutes later, out came the results — a previously unheard of speed in output. "Part of the leukaemia protein was strikingly similar to an important family of cancer-forming proteins", he said.

Piecemeal experiments have so far revealed the broad genetic regions responsible for cystic fibrosis, colon cancer and Alzheimer's disease. But the vast proportion of the 10,000 to 150,000 base pairs in each gene remain uncharted territory.



Technology News

Making the perfect golf club

LONDON, (LPS): Golfers will soon be unable to blame their club when they make a hopeless stroke. For scientists have been brought in to produce perfectly weighted clubs as an example of the new powers of computer-aided design.

The new Calculus club is the outcome of collaboration between golf club makers John Letters and Co, and a team of applied mathematicians from St Andrews University in Scotland.

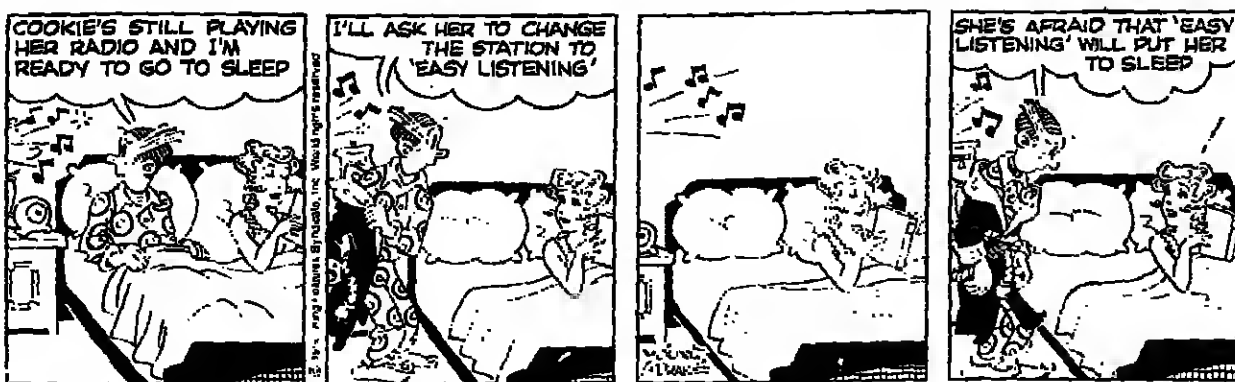
The University team has modelled the dynamics of the impact between club and ball, and mechanical engineers at Glasgow University, also in Scotland, have developed sophisticated computer graphics to transfer the mathematicians' theoretical calculations into a design.

Calculus has been designed to produce a "sweet spot" which moves uniformly along the face of the club from the toe for long irons to the heel for short irons. This is achieved by what is called optimised step weighting and gives the golfer a club that is ideally weighted for the particular stroke it is to be used for.

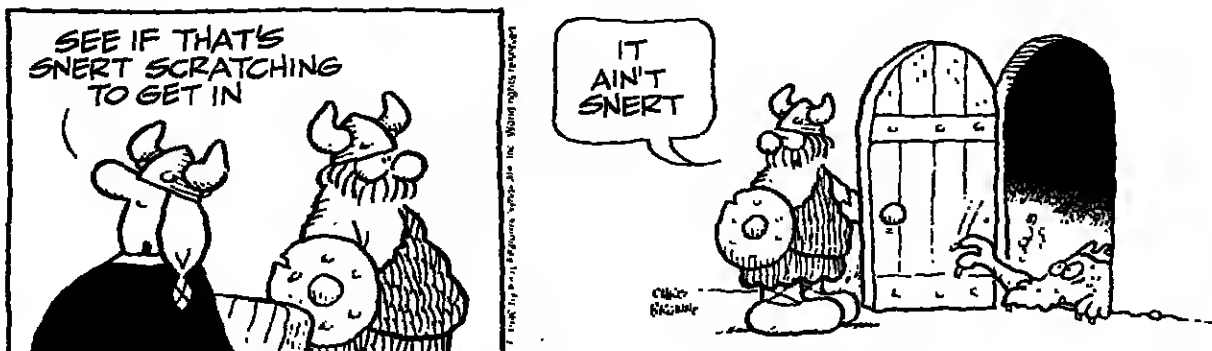
Already Calculus club sets have attracted more than 200 advance orders and big interest is being shown by Japan, which is regarded as one of the biggest markets for such clubs.

Although the research in to the dynamics of golf clubs was privately funded, it was also backed financially by the European Economic Community as part of project looking into the long term possibilities for computer-aided design and manufacture in Scotland. The St. Andrews team hopes the EEC funding will now be extended to allow further research into aspects of golf club design. (LPS)

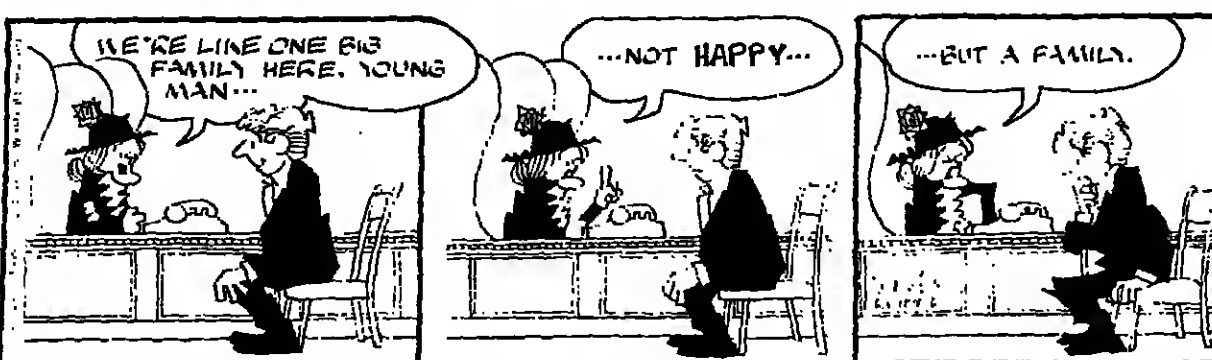
BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Drake



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE — By Dik Browne



AGATHA CRUMM — By Bill Hoest



BEETLE BAILEY — By Mort Walker



THE WIZARD OF ID — By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



ANDY CAPP



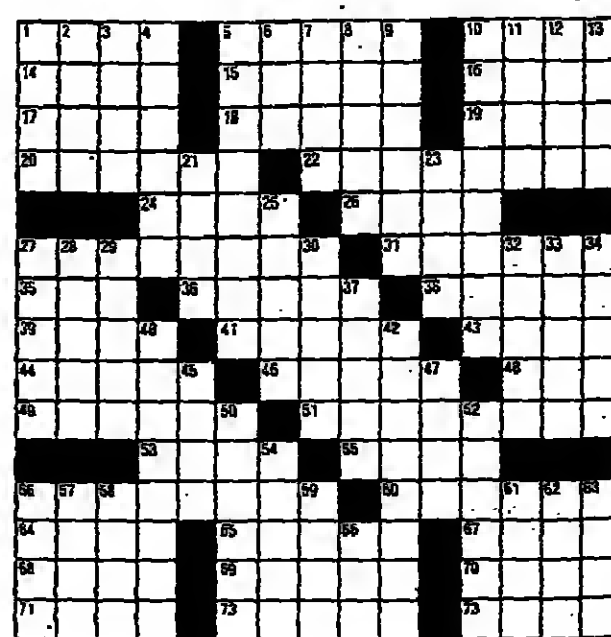
B.C. — By Johnny Hart



HE-MAN — By G. Fortin & J. Shall



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Totally absorbed
 - Retrain
 - Woodwind
 - Producer
 - Latin word
 - Per
 - Far from capable
 - Chess piece
 - "Fidelis"
 - Close call
 - Book depositories
 - Brilliant display
 - Estrange
 - Lerner partner and family
 - Cluster of seals
 - Upper crust
 - Ankles
 - Chief god of ancient Memphis
 - Composer of "The Land of Smiles"
 - City of NE France
 - Characteristics of a group
 - Fills to repletion
 - Understand
 - Came into sight
 - Pitcher's feat
 - Name for an Irish lass
 - Captain of the
- "Nautilus"**
- Important
 - Like the stars
 - "Geste"
 - Wren novel
 - Actress Garson
 - Weight allowance
 - Farm sight
 - Ties
 - Preholiday times
 - "Well that Ends Well"
 - Joan of Arc
 - Take five
 - Scepters
 - He wed an Irish Rose
 - Lynical composition
 - House of worship
 - Umpire's
 - Coffee maker
 - "Ich"
 - Prince of Wales' motto
 - Started onlooker
 - Involve
 - Baseball training unit
 - Mime to Pierre
 - SE Asian land
 - Inquiries
 - "Kluge"
 - Nachtmusik
- Cheer for the team
 - Pigs' digs
 - Call
 - In Paris
 - Bingo's cousin
 - Potatoes thrive here
 - Alien
 - Or Frome
 - Gain with difficulty
 - A Lauder
 - Measuring device
 - Canadian merchant T.
 - 1834-1907
 - Scores in baseball
 - Perform for practice
 - Evening in Roma
 - American admiral in WWI
 - Archaeologist at times
 - To be unsteady
 - Coolness in danger
 - Eban of Israel
 - Stew ingredient
 - Grey tea
 - Visualized
 - One kind of review
 - Greek god
 - "we forget"
 - Wind dir.

GOREN BRIDGE

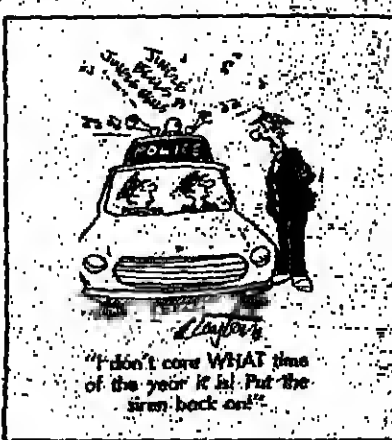
BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠KJ8 ♥10863 ♦A5 ♣Q1074
Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?
A.—This is the sort of hand that made players adopt limit jump raises. If you play forcing jump raises you have to make the tempo- rizing response of two clubs, intend- ing to raise hearts at your next turn. Unfortunately, partner won't know whether you have three- or four- card trump support, which could be crucial to his decision to bid game or not.
- Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AKQ64 ♥A10832 ♦Void ♣AK9
What is your opening bid?
A.—Even though you have excep- tional offensive potential and only a three-loser hand, two-suiters are not easy to bid if you start with a demand bid, especially if you play weak two-bids with two clubs as the only force. We suggest a one-spade opening followed by a jump shift in hearts.
- Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AQ106 ♥KJ62 ♦J7 ♣J83
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Dbl ?
What action do you take?
A.—Had there been no intervening action, you would have to decide whether your hand was good enough for a forcing jump raise. After a takeout double, however, a jump raise becomes preemptive. The way to show this hand is first to redouble, then raise hearts.
- Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠K104 ♥A93 ♦QJ92 ♣AK10
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 3 NT Pass
4 ♣ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
A.—Even if you play Goren North's bid of four clubs is not ask- ing—it is a natural slam try. Since you have an excellent hand in support of clubs, cue- bid your cheapest ace. Bid four hearts.
- Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠1098 ♥KQ4 ♦K7 ♣AJ95
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
Pass Pass 3 ♥ ?
What action do you take?
A.—For the moment, East's pre- empt has accomplished its purpose. You can't be sure whose hand it is, and should you elect to take any action and find partner with an un- suitable hand, it could be a blood- bath. Pass, and let the auction take its course.
- Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠1098 ♥KQ4 ♦K7 ♣AJ95
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
Pass Pass 3 ♥ ?
What action do you take?
A.—There's a temptation to try three no trump, but that could be a risky venture since partner did not have enough to open the bidding. We would take our sure profit by converting partner's takeout double to penalties by passing.

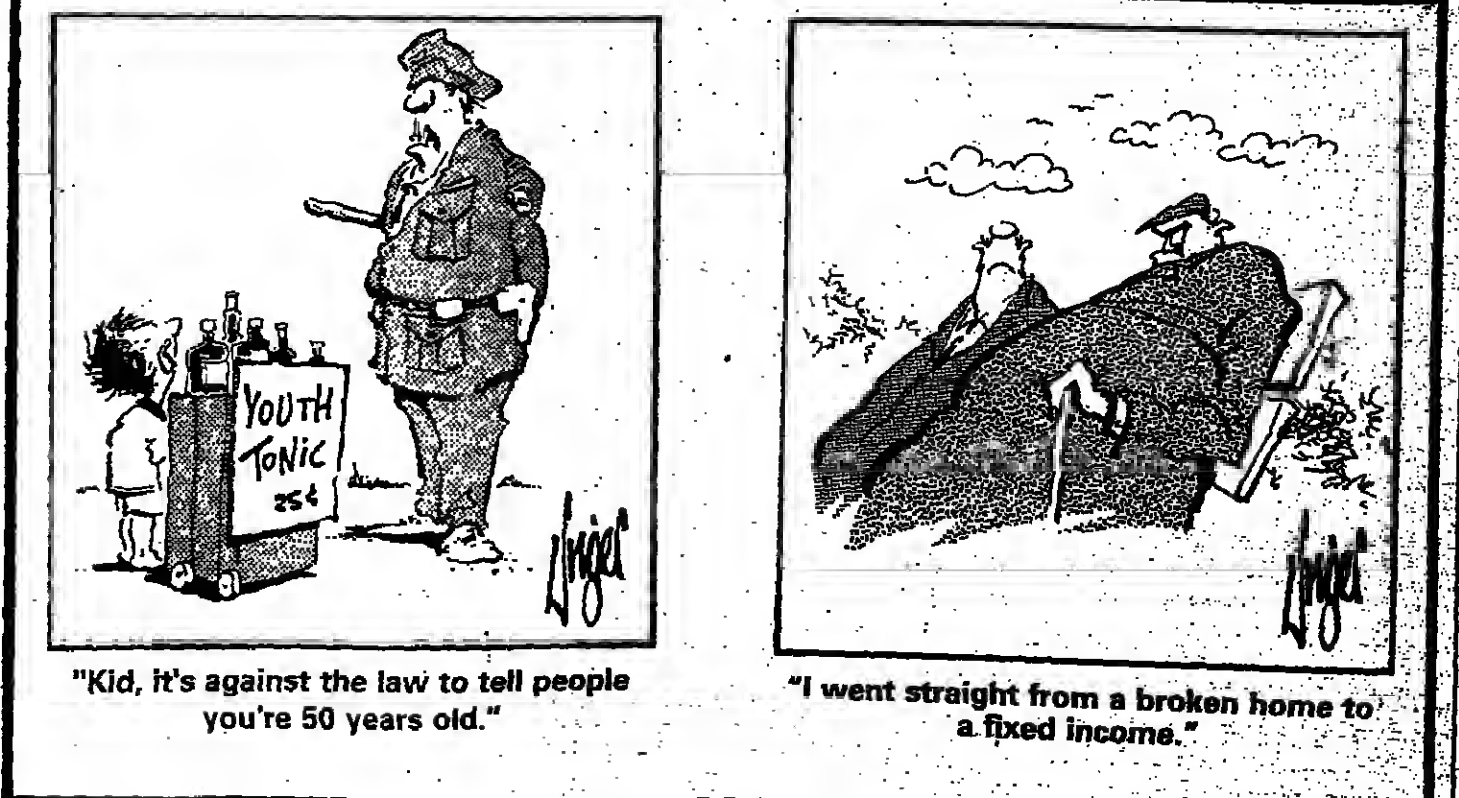
ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

LAVIE PIZCA TOTE
APEX OZARK UPON
MENU TORTE RATO
BRIDALVEILFALLS
EVA EGAN
MAP ATOP YOEELS
ABA SCREE ODEA
JONATHANWINTERS
OVEN STENO NOS
RELATE ARKS STY
TAXI SIP
COLORADOSPRINGS
EVIL CELLO QUIP
RAND TSLIT UMBO
OLGA TAGS ABET



YOUR STARS

- Aries** (March 21 - April 20)
You will have some good ideas only others may not agree with you. You should try to take your mind off work for the day. Do not eat or drink more than you know is good for you. Be tolerant.
- Cancer** (June 21 - July 20)
You will tend to be rather too critical of others. You should try to control your reactions and not to exaggerate. Avoid making too much noise and try not to expose yourself to noise made by others. Be respectful.
- Libra** (Sept. 21 - Oct. 22)
It will not be as difficult to make some necessary changes as you first thought it would be. Spend a little time tidying up, it will save a lot of time later. Avoid drowning your- self in negative reflections. Be observant.
- Capricorn** (Dec. 21 - Jan. 19)
You should make sure of your facts — you are all too liable to jump to unwarranted conclusions. A tendency to permit a hobby to become an obsession must be resisted. You should try a little harder to see things from other people's point of view too. Be moderate.
- Taurus** (April 21 - May 20)
Prospects are good only you must not expect too much for too little. You should try to have a good laugh at yourself. Do not expect others always to have your best interests at heart.
- Leo** (July 21 - Aug. 21)
Something that has been puzzling you will now become a lot clearer. However, the mystery is still not entirely resolved. Consider the facts yet again before you finally make up your mind. Be reliable.
- Scorpio** (Oct. 21 - Nov. 21)
A tendency to dwell on the past should be resisted. And you should not have regrets, there is no point in them. You would be wrong to say one thing and then to do something quite different. Be sensible.
- Gemini** (May 21 - June 20)
You should have a little more respect for your elders. Your lucky numbers are 2 and 37. You will tend to be diverted from what has to be done by all kinds of distractions, try to resist them. You will be able to do something you have long wanted to do. Be helpful.
- Virgo** (Aug. 21 - Sept. 22)
You should have a little more faith in yourself. Have a good rest but do not become indolent. Make sure you do not lose interest in what is of interest to your partner and to your children. Be polite.
- Sagittarius** (Nov. 21 - Dec. 20)
You will tend to be rather nervous and excitable and should do whatever you can to calm your- self. Take a little better care of your health also by making sure you eat a balanced diet. Be tactful.
- Pisces** (Feb. 21 - March 20)
Something you have predicted will turn out to be correct, but do not boast too much about it. The prospects are good but you have to make an effort, do not just rely on good luck. And you should try to make the best of things as they are. Be magnanimous.





Mira Nair, spotlight on race relations

Sherlock Holmes returns to Baker Street 'museum'

LONDON, (Reuters): Britain's most celebrated detective is about to make his return to his densely-furnished Victorian lodging at 221B Baker Street, which has been converted into a Sherlock Holmes museum.

Almost 100 years after Sir Arthur Conan Doyle disposed of his hero in the apocryphal final problem, London entrepreneur John Aldrich is putting the final touches to the three-storey building which opens its doors on March 27.

"I wasn't even a Sherlock Holmes fan but I got the idea for the museum last April when I read that his rooms were located at number 221B, quite near my office," Aldrich told Reuters.

The thousands of letters that arrive in London each year from Holmes fans around the world have traditionally been directed to the Abbey National Loan and Savings Institution whose headquarters occupy 215 to 229 Baker Street.

Correspondents receive in reply a letter informing them that Holmes has retired to Sussex, where he spends his time "reviewing the records of his cases and keeping bees."

"That almost put a damper on my plans," Aldrich said. "I couldn't very well ask Abbey to move."

But after some research at the local library, he learned that the numbers had been given to Abbey in 1930.

"I obtained maps of the area as it was during Holmes's

day and found that by counting the buildings north from Oxford Street, 221B would have corresponded to a 175-year-old Georgian house a few floors up from the Abbey," he said.

The building, a lodging house in Victorian times, has been vacant since 1934 due to a structural fault in the back wall.

Aldrich advertised for backing in Country Life, a magazine read by Britain's landed gentry, and a titled lady — who insists on anonymity — came forward with help from a banker friend who agreed to provide a mortgage on the building.

"It was wonderful," he said. "Thanks to her help I got my money in 15 minutes."

The museum purports to be a replica of the lodgings occupied by the detective, his companion Dr. Watson and their housekeeper Mrs. Hudson — including the celebrated 17 steps up to Holmes's rooms noted in the first Conan Doyle story, a study in scarlet.

"Everything in the museum will be as Conan Doyle portrayed it in his stories," Aldrich said.

There will even be a wax model of Holmes seated at his window — with a bullet hole through his forehead, a replica of the decoy detective used to trap the infamous Colonel Sebastian Moran in the empty house.

NEW YORK, (WNL): There is a deep glow in her dark eyes. A laugh, a smile, a loss of the head and she's a lively teenager. A reflective frown and she's an intense, thoughtful woman. Vibrant yet serene, Indian film-maker Mira Nair exudes a harmonious blend of toughness and sensitivity, will-power and spontaneity.

"The first thing that's important in my work is that it has to come from within me and satisfy something inside me," she explained in an interview at her New York production office. The fame that came in the wake of her hugely successful first feature film *Salaam Bombay!* which was crowned by the Golden Camera award in 1988 has in no way altered her open manner.

At 32, Nair has won world-wide acclaim for her vivid portrayal of Bombay street urchins, but more important to her, she says is how the film was received in her native India. The uncompromising realism of *Salaam Bombay!* a radical departure from traditional Indian fare which serves up romantic epics to the tune of some 800 movies a year, *Salaam Bombay!* played in theaters all over India and in major cities scored a "Silver Jubilee" a 25-week run. "I did not accept that one had to underestimate the audience in India. I respect a lot of Indian commercial cinema. But I find a lot of contemporary cinema is derivative and plagiarized, and not original — copies from Western films and escapist stuff," she said.

Nair who came to the US on a Harvard University scholarship to study documentary-making in 1979 now divides her time fairly evenly between New York and India, and so far, all her work, four documentaries and *Salaam Bombay!* was shot in India. "In a very primary way, I feel my inspiration has been India," she says, although she admits that living between two cultures has not always been easy.

"Initially, it was very hard and confusing, and I used that confusion in my work," she adds, though now she feels comfortable in this dual pattern. "Sometimes, I yearn to see all the seasons in one place, but at this

point in my life, I go where my heart takes me. It's a kind of exhilaration. These are the pushes and pulls that I live with."

"I feel very grounded and close to my culture; it gives me a lot of strength to leap out and explore," says Nair, who grew up in Bhubaneswar, a historic town south of Calcutta in eastern India. Although she has become somewhat "Westernized," she says it has not really changed her relationship with people at home. "Indians are traditionally very grumpy about that, but it works both ways. A number of creative people have first gained acceptance abroad and then been embraced at home. On the other hand, if you've been abroad and returned to India to work, you are viewed in a much more caustic and critical way. In the end, what I aspire to is to be judged by my work."

"I don't believe in personality cults," she adds, "and I don't believe I'm doing anything hugely glamorous. I am just a worker, like a person in a factory, but it's just a different medium. I could simply fail and fade away. It's a very lonely profession sometimes. You just have to believe in what you do and like an insane person go after it."

It's also a profession in which few women in India have yet succeeded, but society is changing fast. In an earlier documentary entitled *Children of Desired Sex* Nair highlighted the traditional preference still given to male children. "It is a paradoxical situation where we have many women who are visibly successful, in positions of executive leadership. We have an increasingly large middle class and more and more women in the workforce. In rural areas, women have always worked much harder than men, at home and in agriculture. The paradox comes when traditions still favour male children and women at home are supposed to submit totally to the family... A woman's place in India is filled with contradictions," she notes.

Although Indian urban society is fast moving into the world of consumerism, says Nair, "fundamental change can only

occur when rural India changes." She expressed optimism and confidence in India's newly elected government headed by Prime Minister V.P. Singh who she believes is focusing on the problems of India's peasants — still a majority of the country's 814 million people.

Yet Nair expressed concern about increasing ethnic tensions and communal strife, especially in the regions of Kashmir and Punjab where religious conflicts have brought a state of civil war. "This is tearing our country apart. It is the domino theory, one thing affects another... People had lost faith in the leadership," she says, referring to the government led by former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. "When you feel there is no center, you attempt to create your own."

Although it's a specialty of India to mix politics and the movie world — several film stars have risen to high political office largely because of their huge popularity on the screen — Nair isn't tempted to join in. "They have a lot of money and publicity, but I think it is all about dreams and image," she comments. "It's not me. I want to affect people the way I know how to, through my work. Politics is a dirty business."

Yet social and political issues often provide the seed for her creations. "A lot of my inspiration comes from survivors — people who survive against all odds, people who survive without self-pity," she explains. "But I don't find films that preach interesting because there is no tension, no mystery; they don't do justice to the complexities inherent in the situation of people living on the margins of society."

In a new film project, Nair has decided to address another complex social issue, that of inter-racial relationships and what she calls the "black, brown, white hierarchy." Shooting is due to start in September, and the plot will focus on an Indian family which is expelled from Idi Amin's Uganda after living there for 20 years. The family ends up in Mississippi, in the southern United States, home now to a large Indian community, where some wealthier

relatives settled.

Indians have been attracted to the southern US because of the warm climate, and says Nair, many have done well there. Their success contrasts with the situation of the large black community whose people seemingly are resigned to their fate and have little drive to fight for success. "The surface is extremely deceptive. There are (still) deep inequalities in this society. Mississippi is an extreme case of segregated America. It is a situation of no-exist; psychologically, the young black people have not been allowed to dream. When you deprive an individual of the ability to aspire to anything, they ask themselves 'What is the point?'"

"The black community has been there for 400 years, but it faces a struggle that is very real because it comes from inside. When there has been a cultural genocide on such a deep level, it is hard to start again."

In the South, Indians occupy an unusual position, says Nair. "The whites like the fact that the Indians are there, running the businesses, because they're not black; the blacks like the Indians because they are brown brothers... and the Indians like the fact that the blacks exist because they can be the underdogs."

In the film, the young daughter of the newly-arrived Indian family becomes involved with a young black who runs a carpet cleaning business. When their relationship is discovered the latent racial tensions explode. "The film is also about dislocation and the notion of home," Nair says. "These are things that are very personal to me and very inspiring. Africa is very present in the film as the notion of home. Mythically, it is the black people's home, and it is also the home of the Indian girl, because she has never known India."

Unlike for *Salaam Bombay!* in which Nair relied mostly on non-professional actors — children off the streets — she will use professionals from India, Africa and black-Americans. She promises to draw also on the local population.

Cinema

Echoing brutal reality of repression

'A City of Sadness'

TAIPEI, (CSM): In a mop-up of resistance, Chinese soldiers shove dissidents from a hideout and hustle them at bayonet-point to a mock tribunal and quick execution.

Though echoing a brutal reality on mainland China, this scene is flickering in cinemas here on Taiwan today in the award-winning film *A City of Sadness*.

But the "city" is not Beijing, any similarities in the film with the crackdown in China following the massacre last June are coincidental. Instead, the movie focuses on the period surrounding the systematic killing of Taiwan's intellectuals by the Nationalist regime in early 1947.

Like the repression on the mainland, however, the film warns Taiwan that, despite its democratic reforms since 1987, communist China's authoritarian traditions are still close at hand. The film also voices the concern among intellectuals that, in its intoxication over new wealth, Taiwan is neglecting an opportunity to assert an independent political identity.

Without such a stand, Taiwan remains vulnerable to subjugation from the mainland, they believe.

Attempting to break from China's legacy of strongman rule, activists in Taiwan have called for a declaration of independence from China. Many of them have been jailed by the Nationalist regime for subverting its claim to represent all

China. *A City of Sadness* bolsters the case for independence by reminding islanders how they have suffered this century under the rule of outsiders: first under Japan and then under the Nationalists who fled from communists on the mainland.

Independence advocates believe Taiwan must mold a national identity now while Beijing is too preoccupied with unrest and economic hardship to launch an invasion.

Islanders have apparently watched *City of Sadness* in record numbers, not for political inspiration but for the thrill of dabbling in the ferment over "228." That date recalls the clashes between mainlanders and Taiwanese on Feb 28, 1947, which led to the slaughter of thousands of Taiwanese intellectuals. Just a few years ago discussions of the atrocity could land Taiwanese in jail.

Even the Nationalist regime has had to restrain its censors and join the applause since the film won the Premier Award at the Venice Film Festival in September and subsequent acclaim at the New York and Toronto film festivals.

Despite its appeal here, the movie hasn't jarred most islanders from political passivity and from what some intellectuals call an obsession with new wealth. Although independence advocates did well in elections on Dec 2, islanders who want to see

Taiwan as a separate nation are a small minority, according to opinion polls.

A City of Sadness shows the high costs of the greed and political indifference that intellectuals today believe prevents Taiwan from achieving nationhood. It shows how a small-town gangster family absorbed in selfish concerns becomes a ready victim for the abuse of foreign powers.

The movie recounts the life of the Lin family during Taiwan's spell of freedom between the withdrawal of Japan in 1945 and the consolidation of Nationalist power in 1949. Like Taiwanese society, the Lin family lacks courage and vision and fritters away a fleeting opportunity to improve itself.

Two sons of the patriarch gangster are lost to the Japanese: One never returns from the war, and the other suffers shell-shock. The two remaining sons are lost to mainlanders: one to a rival gang from Shanghai, and the youngest in the repression under the Nationalists.

In a cellblock scene the youngest son, Lin Wen-ching, personifies the position of Taiwan in this century as impotent victim. The call to a tribunal and possible execution creeps up on the vast, solitary silence of Lin, an innocent deaf-mute. Slowly, with wide-eyed glances, he discerns from the lowered eyes of his cell mates that

Nationalist soldiers have come for him. Although director Hou Hsiao-hsien rarely takes the camera off of the Lin family, the script is laced with lines that lament the political weakness in the surrounding society. "We're so pathetic! First the Japanese abuse us, and now we're getting it from the mainlanders," says the braying, boisterous Lin Wen-hung, the oldest son, who is shot dead by the don of a Shanghai gang.

Also, in a rebuke to the lack of seminal patriotism today on Taiwan, a character extols the "heroic spirit and enthusiasm" during the Meiji period in Japan (1868-1912).

Referring to the Taiwanese today, Yang Kuo-shu, a psychology professor at National Taiwan University, says, "Most people are primarily concerned about their stability and security; they feel they've gotten many of the material things they desire and they don't want to risk losing it with a call for independence."

Other observers note a die-hard tradition of subservience to authoritarian rule. "Chinese are very submissive," says Antonio Chiang, a magazine publisher. "Even though the issue of '228' came out in the film during the campaign for the (Dec 2) election, candidates and other people didn't act on it; they just left it alone," he says.



City of Sadness director Hou Hsiao-Hsien flanked by the film's writer (left) and its star Robert Harrison

Your Health

We consume 1.5 billion cups of coffee per day

By Catherine Armit
Science Correspondent

LONDON, (Reuters): Consider this with your morning cup of coffee.

The widely consumed beverage may or may not give you heart disease, may protect you from some cancers but may cause others, might lower your cholesterol level unless decaffeinated, in which case it might raise it, could be linked to diabetes in children and might stimulate sex drive and fertility.

All of these findings have been reported in recent months, often met with a chorus of criticism from researchers waving reports that came to opposite conclusions.

Meanwhile, people continue to consume more than 1.5 billion cups of coffee every day around the world, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO).

"There has been no sort of health move away from coffee at all," said Lawrence Eagles, a coffee analyst for London traders CNI. "The only trend is that there is a move toward higher quality coffees as affluence increases."

Coffee remains one of the most studied food substances. More than 500 reports have been published over the last 40 years.

But research is often criticised as being based on inexact studies of population groups and their behaviour.

Thus, at first glance a link may seem obvious if people who drink lots of coffee are found to get heart attacks. But such factors as diet, lifestyle, cigarette smoking and family history must also be considered, and this information can be heard to come by.

"These studies can be very contradictory because they often use ill-prepared protocols (guidelines) and very bad control groups," said Dr Euan Paul, a consultant for general foods and chairman of the Physiological Effects of Coffee (PIC) committee, a Europe-wide group of scientists who study the beverage.

PIC reviews all the research that comes out and has found no definitive proof that coffee is either good or bad for you, Paul said. In addition, laboratory animals given enough caffeine to equal 60 to 100 cups of coffee a day have shown no adverse

effects. "In general, whenever you find no adverse reaction to a chemical in animals, it is safe for humans," he said.

Paul said one study that does seem to be valid concerned the method of preparing coffee. A Dutch report released last November found that coffee in which the boiling water and grounds are mixed directly can increase cholesterol levels by 10 per cent, compared with drinking filtered coffee or no coffee at all.

Scientists theorise that the interaction of boiling water and coffee could cause a chemical change that affects cholesterol.

Coffee can contain as many as 500 naturally occurring chemicals, but most studies focus on caffeine, a mild stimulant that is also found in tea, chocolate and cola drinks.

Scientists say that when consumed to excess — say, 15 cups of coffee a day — caffeine can cause anxiety, irritability and an inability to concentrate. Scientists are less certain about more lasting physiological effects.

A panel of scientists met under WHO auspices this month in Geneva to examine 24 different studies on coffee and cancer. They determined that coffee may protect against cancer of the colon and rectum and there is "limited evidence" that it may be related to cancer of the bladder.

But a 1988 study in Denmark excluded any links between coffee and bladder cancer.

A Boston University study last November on colon and rectal cancer found a 40 per cent lower risk among people who drink five or more cups a day, but the researchers said they did not have information on the diets of the more than 1,200 people studied.

A Norwegian study released in February concluded that middle-aged men who drink five or more cups of coffee a day may have a significantly increased risk of fatal heart disease.

This study was of 38,564 men and women over 10 years. But the Norwegian researchers said that differences in the statistics collected from the various groups studied make it impossible to state positively that excessive coffee drinking is a factor in fatal coronary disease.

Kurdish rebels put down arms to promote tourism

By Subhy Haddad

ERBIL, Iraq, (Reuters): Kurdish guerrillas who gave up a fight for autonomy to join Iraq's war against Iran in the eight-year Gulf War, are being rewarded with promise of rich picking from tourist development.

Iraq plans to transform its rugged northeast mountains bordering Turkey and Iran from battlefield to international holiday resort.

Baghdad waged a punitive campaign against Kurdish dissidents in the area after a UN-brokered ceasefire halted the Gulf conflict in August 1988.

A 30-km (20-mile) corridor along the Iranian border where Iraq is alleged to have used chemical weapons against Kurdish dissidents will remain off limits.

Iraq admits having used chemical weapons against Iraqis in the eight-year Gulf War, but denies using them against its own Kurdish people.

An estimated 100,000 Kurds fled to Turkey or Iran to escape an Iraqi army onslaught launched in August 1988. Iraq granted Kurdish rebels amnesty last year.

Kurdish rebel leaders warned their followers in Turkey not to accept but several thousand returned to their homeland in Iraq after enduring hardships in exile.

Kurdish chiefs who backed President Saddam Hussein in his war against Iran have already been substantially rewarded.

They can be seen driving around the northern provinces of Erbil, Sulaymaniyah and Dohuk in

Mercedes 280s, gifts of the president, officials said. Their salaries and allowances from the Baghdad government are said to be substantial.

Large tracts of land, houses, orchards and other property were given to them as rewards for fighting Iran.

Thousands of their tribesmen, paid and supplied with weapons by Baghdad, still guard mountain peaks and roads having taken over responsibility for security from the army.

Now the president wants them to promote and is offering attractive terms, granting 25 year leases on government-built hotels, mountain cabins, restaurants and bars at symbolic rents, officials said.

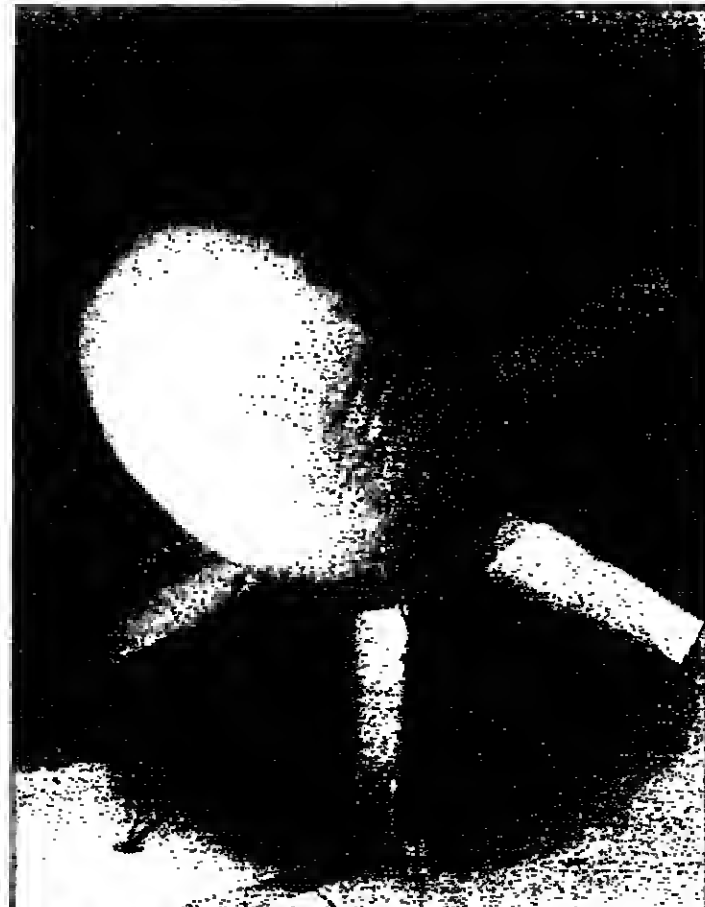
During recent visit to the area the president told Kurdish chiefs he had decided to put them in charge of tourism to guarantee that the area would be run by its own people.

The chairman of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region's Legislative Council, Baha' al-Din Ahmed, said Baghdad had spent about 1.66 billion dinars (\$5.3 billion) over the past three years on reconstruction.

Large amounts were spent on developing tourist projects and building roads, bridges and cable cars to link mountain peaks, he said.

The hill resorts, some perched on mountains over 2,500 metres (8,000 feet) above sea level, are surrounded by green fields and orchards.

The temperature never rises above 30 degrees Centigrade (86 Fahrenheit) at the height of summer when Baghdad and other Iraqi cities swelter at over 50 centigrade (122 Fahrenheit).



Milestone

A Big Fan, the giant 39-foot-diameter over 14 m fan at Lockheed Aircraft Systems Company, Georgia, undergoes routine maintenance prior to another run at the company's low-speed wind tunnel in Marietta, Georgia. Powered by a 9,000 hp electric motor, the fan can generate winds up to 300 mph (483 kmph). The wind tunnel built 13 years ago, recently surpassed 50,000 hours of use time — an average of six hours a day for the 22 years it's been open.

SNIPPETS

Fashion court deadline: An extensive nationwide search heralded this year's quest for the Mondragon Court of Fashion, a group of young women who will serve as ambassadors of goodwill for the company and its products.

A team of beauty experts have been to Iloilo, Cebu, Davao, Zamboanga, Pampanga, La Union and Baguio to screen more than 300 applicants. Each winner will receive P100,000 in cash and prizes. Talent scout of each of the seven winners will also receive P5,000 in each.

Qualified are young women from ages 15-23, of good moral character, at least five-foot-four with pleasing personality and a proportionate figure. Deadline for submission of application forms is February 28, 1990. Interested parties may go to Dream-Maker's Talents Inc., 6th Floor, Dona Narcisa Bldg., Pasco De Roxas, Makati, telephone 817-66-77 or at Aljeje, Maniquis & Associates, 2nd Floor, Padilla Arcade Greenhills Shopping Center, San Juan, 721-27-61, 721-05-62, or 70-53-13.

Quezon City logo tilt: The Quezon City government will launch an on-the-spot logo-making contest for its newly-created Task Force on Industrial Relations in such a huge urban center as Quezon City.

Qualified participants are men and women who are authorized representatives of any legitimate labour union or authorized representatives of any businesses operating in the city.

Requirements are certification of employment, duly accomplished application form for the contest, and materials to be used in the contest. Prizes are P2,000 in cash plus trophy for the winning logo; P1,500 and trophy for second prize; and P1,000 plus trophy for third prize.

Rizal conference: The Kagunari (Kapisanan ng mga Guro ng Nagmamahal kay Rizal) has invited teachers of the Rizal course and Philippine history to a conference-workshop at the Faculty Center Conference Hall, University of the Philippines, Diliman Quezon City. It is co-sponsored by the Kagunari with the National Historical Institute and UP Department of Filipino and Philippine Literature.

For further information, contact Prof. Amalia Rosales of PUP, 60-90-09, Prof. Alex Lamandrid of DLSU at 58-13-57 or 50-48-11 local 572, or Ms. Au Carandang at the Department of Filipino and Philippine Literature, 3rd Floor, Faculty Center UP Diliman.

Filipinos organize labour union in Japan: Six Filipino computer operators set up a labour union in Japan Wednesday to improve what they claim are bad working conditions in their company. Japanese trade union officials said.

It is the first time foreigners have set up a labour union in Japan, the officials said.

Jayne A. Moreno, 31 one of the union's founders, told reporters that she and her Filipino colleagues established the union to protect not only their labour standards but all Filipino working in Japan. The union belongs to the National Union of General Workers.

Moreno, who has been working at the translating firm Atlas Japan Corp in Tokyo, complained the company had cheated her by issuing two different versions of her contract.

She and her other Filipino colleagues claim the firm should pay them a monthly salary of \$1,600.

But Tsunero Inoue, president of Atlas Japan Co, said on Wednesday the monthly wage of 80,000 yen is net income and the firm has deducted housing and other necessary costs from the \$1,600.

Blood on her breakfast

A HOUSEWIFE in Caloocan City suddenly turned pale when blood started dripping on the merienda that she was preparing Thursday afternoon.

Angelina Medrano-Parrenas, 35, of 23 Milagrosa Ext., Bagong Barrio, Caloocan City told investigator Pat. Ricardo Concepcion that she later discovered that the blood came from a dead body on the second floor of the house.

"Akala ko, may tumulo na catsup sa pan de sal, iyon pala'y dugo," Parrenas said.

Police found Oscar Santos, 41, of 293 Service Road, Bagong Barrio, Caloocan City, sprawled on the floor upstairs. Near his body were an empty bottle of local rum and a plate of peanuts.

Police said his head had been smashed with a hard object.

Melchor dela Pena, of 81 P. Gomez St. also in Bagong Barrio, claimed that he, and Santos and a certain Arturo Mondejar alias Turo had earlier drunk liquor on the second floor of Parrenas' house. Dela Pena said he left while Santos and Mondejar were still drinking. Police are now looking for Mondejar.

Cavite controversy not part of plan

THE House Committee on Agrarian Reform yesterday debunked speculations that the raging controversy over the NDC-Marubeni Industrial Estate in Dasmariñas, Cavite is part of a plan to derail the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Programme (CARP).

Albay Rep. Edel Lagman, committee chairman, said: "There is no indication of any motive to derail the CARP."

Lagman pointed out that the NDC-Marubeni issue can easily be resolved by determining whether it is marginal or prime land.

Agrarian Reform Sec. Florencio Abad had opposed the conversion of the 230-hectare land into an industrial estate, claiming that it is prime agricultural land covered by the CARP.

Cavite Congressmen Renato Dragon, Leonardo Guerrero and Jorge Nunez, Cavite Gov Juanito Remulla and Trade Secretary Jose Concepcion Jr. had contended that the land is marginal.

Peasants hit Abad

PEASANT organizations lambasted Agrarian Reform Sec. Florencio Abad for his hesitation on whether or not to favour conversion of lands into industrial estates.

The Federation of Free Farmers (FFF), Kilusang Magbuhukid ng Pilipinas (KMP), and Sanduguan said Cabinet members have given up the government's programme for peasants.

The Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Programme (CARP) gives way to foreign interests, they said.

KMP chairman Jaime Tadeo said the Cabinet's 5th column headed by Abad and Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Sec. Jose Concepcion "masterminded the CARP."

Sanduguan chairman Benjamin Cruz said Abad can be charged with violating the CARL once the Cavite Industrial Estate is approved.

The peasant organizations said President Aquino may have violated the Comprehensive Agrarian Law (CARL) when he reportedly said agricultural lands declared as industrial zones by the Housing and Land Regulatory Board prior to June 15, 1988, are no longer subject to the agrarian reform department's conversion authority.

"Instead of restricting the DAR's powers on conversion matters, the CARL broadened its scope to cover all private and public agricultural lands, irrespective of land tenure, and with no cut off date," the organizations said.

Landowners have started requesting the DAR to exempt their properties from the CARP.

This follows the government's declaration that certain areas in the provinces of Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, and Rizal (Calabar) will be converted into an industrial estate.

Marriage encounter: The St Andrew Marriage Encounter Community is conducting a marriage encounter seminar at the Siena Spiritual Center in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan up to tomorrow.

The ecclesial team is composed of Fr. Maurice Cardinal, Kelly and Helen Pacquing and Mon and Joan Alba.

Interested couples may inquire from Boy and Jasmin de Leon at 827-51-11 or Andy and Annie Moncada at 86-31-64.

Grand alumni reunion: Organisers of the East Visayan Institute (EVI) grand alumni reunion invite all graduates of the EVI in San Julian, Eastern Samar from 1956 to 1989 to a grand reunion at the school's compound on April 20-22, 1990.

For more information, please call Dr. Oscar Calim, 98-63-43; Engr. Ambet Arguelles, 522-32-26; and Irma Balena, 26-17-89.

Two naked and dead: Two naked, heavily-tattooed men with identical stab wounds were found dead in Marikina.

Residents discovered the two bodies — with Side Sign Sputnik tattoo marks about 25-30 years old and both lying along the entrance of the Industrial Baggage Subdivision, Marcos Highway, Barangka, Marikina.

The human side of Rambotito

THE first impression, they say, is lasting. It is human perception that at a glance, we seem to be able to conclude. We always feel that our intuition is the best guide to a human character. So much that intuition, we sometimes feel is our guide to first impression.

Getting to know a person, at this time and age of a fast paced world, seems to be a time consuming exercise. Many of us have the mistaken notion that the image we form of a person will justify our first impression. After all, we seem to forget that even the toughest person can have a human side.

Meet Jejomar Binay, Mayor of the Municipality of Makati believed to be the country's premier town and financial capital. He is also known as Rambotito.

The personal, as well as general perception of many, is that Mayor Jojo is tough, arrogant, cold blooded, fiery without a tinge of emotion. The public see him as the modern day Andres Bonifacio, always at the forefront of action, be it a coup or a hostage situation. People think of him as a warfreak, ruthless person, who sees a fight as a war against his person. But tough as he is, he too, has a human side.

Notwithstanding the many rumours about Mayor Jejomar Binay, he is as much a person as you and I. He can laugh at a joke, feel the pain when it hurts, cry when in pain, fall in love, feel the sex drive every now and then, get angry when necessary, and fight if he needs to. Yes, he is as much a human being, a mortal just like all of us.

To understand Mayor Binay is to look back at his formative age, his past experiences, the crisis he went through. The years of deprivation, the hard work to gain education, all these are but the many influences in his life. Surely, he has tasted the bitterness of the salad of human sufferings. He has an early lesson in the art of survival.

The totality of past experiences, the pains of growing up, the efforts, the time spent planning his life makes Jojo what he is today.

Jojo was born Nov 1, 1942 in Paco, Manila. He had a Baangueno father, from Bauan, Batangas, and Ibanag mother from Isabela. True to Philippine culture of extended family, Jojo

spent his youth with an aunt, who lives in Pio del Pilar Makati. He got his formal education at the experimental classes at the Philippine Normal College, his high school at the University of the Philippines-Preparatory School, and Liberal Arts and Law at the University of the Philippines. His education was the best the Philippine schools can offer.

Just like any body in an extended family, he had to do household chores in exchange for free lodging and board. And as the saying goes, proximity breeds contempt, so much so that irritation among relatives was unavoidable. Because of Jojo's size, he always got a bigger share of the brunt.

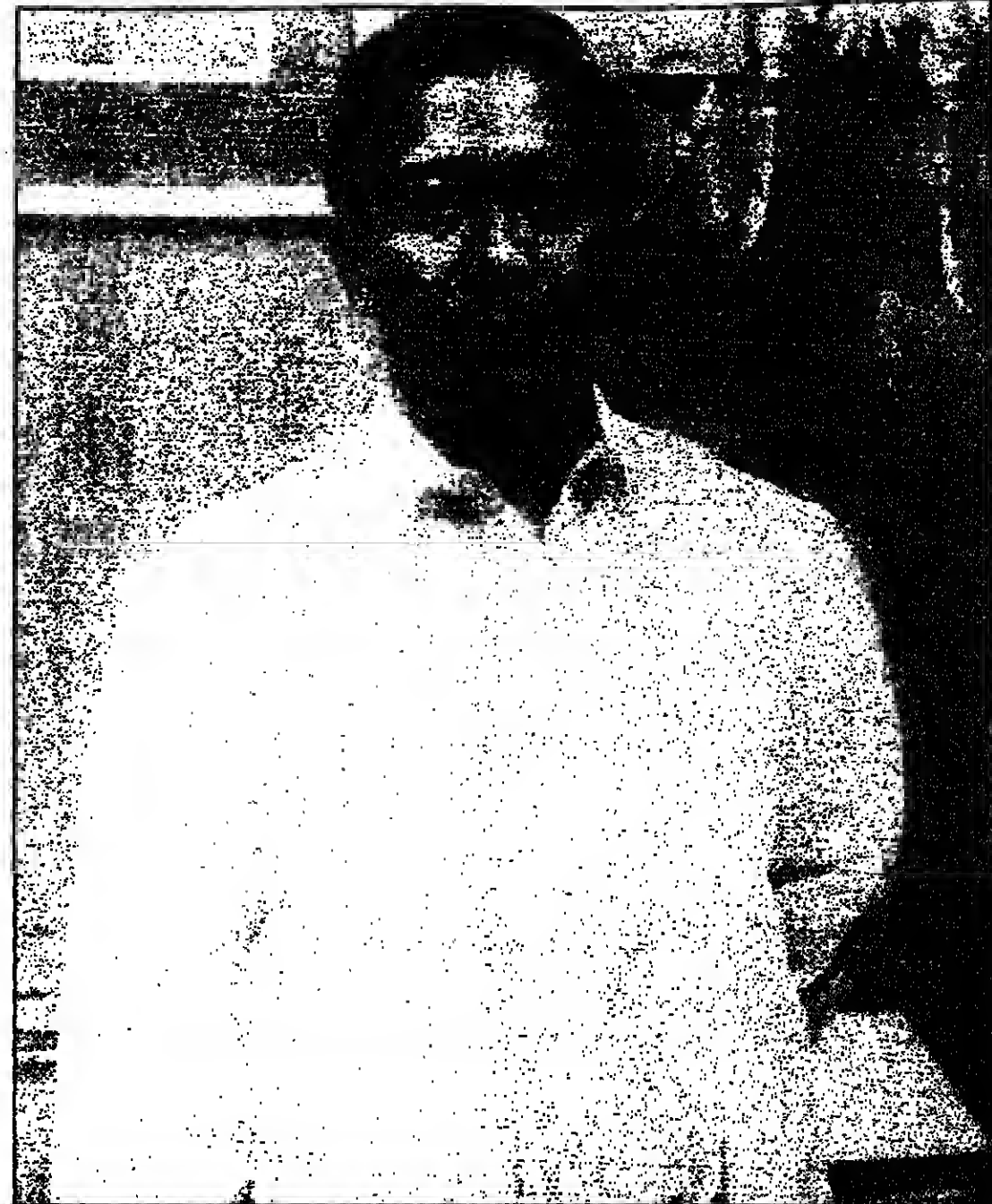
Jojo, with his size was relegated to the receiving end even in neighbourhood fights. In that aspect, he had to learn to fight and survive. It was the school of hardknocks for him. He learned to fight in order to stay above waters.

To the young mind of Jojo, he knew the value of quality education. As a professional, he, too, was a mentor. And as a Mayor, the quality education tops his list of priorities. Every school in Makati gets better facilities.

His dream is to put up a university to be known as Pamantasan ng Makati. He wants the best minds in the academe to be part of that university. He wants the less fortunate sectors of the citizens of Makati to have access to quality education. After all, were it not for his quality education, his station in life today would have remained an elusive dream.

In his subconscious, the thought of having a home must have nagged him. As a youth, he had to share the roof over his head with relatives. Privacy was alien to him. It was enough motivation that as soon as he can afford it, he bought a home. It must be his past experience again that made him do the right thing. He had a house, a car and a stable job before he got married.

The thoughts of the early lean years have been his motivating factor to put up the 300-unit housing development in Barangay Tejezon. The pains of seeing poor people lacking the privacy he once experienced have contributed to making the worthy project a reality. Today, the building is almost completed with



some 80 families living there. He plans to put up 5,000 dwelling units over Makati.

Mayor Binay believes in the saying that, "One does not need bread alone in their mouths, they also need dignity in their hearts." This is the reason why he refuses to dole out. No, it is not the Ilocano blood in him that makes him a tightwad. He believes that by working, one does not become a mendicant always on the receiving end. But he can proudly proclaim, I have this because I worked for it.

His livelihood projects enables the trainees to learn some crafts to help augment their income. This way, they can have dignity in labour. Every Friday, a section of the Municipal Hall becomes a flea market, where the producers are allowed to sell their wares at no market fee.

As Mayor Binay jogs in the different areas of Makati, he gets to interact with the people. It gives him the chance to monitor the progress in the infrastructure projects. By talking to people, he can attend to the basic needs of

the residents, their problems easily attended to.

If there's a weakness in Mayor Jojo which can be called a virtue, it is his fondness for small children. Tough as he projects, he can shed a few tears for children, and he manifested the weakness once.

A few months ago, Mayor Jojo was going to give an award to some youths of Makati. The awards being the Ten Outstanding Youth of Makati, it was imperative that he attended the

ceremonies. The proceedings was a bit delayed as one awardee came late. No, the boy was not out to make a dramatic entrance. The young boy, a student in one of the public schools in Makati came in a borrowed oversized barong and undersized pair of pants.

The reason he was late was that every morning, he had to earn a living selling and buying old newspapers, empty bottles and scrap. That day, he had to work double time for he needed money to pay his transportation fare to get his award. After all, not everyone has that privilege of receiving an award from the mayor. Finally, he made it to the ceremonies.

When the good mayor learned of the boy's plight, he had to feel the raging emotions within him. His voice, as he delivered his speech cracked. There were tears in his eyes. I must have reminded him of the lean and struggling years of his youth.

But whatever the criticisms are, Mayor Binay will always be *masa*.

One of his worthy projects is the Yellow Card Programme. Every citizen of Makati is encouraged to secure from the Municipal Hall a Yellow Card. The holder of the card is entitled to free medical assistance. He can have free consultation, free medicine and free hospitalisation as the need arises. The programme will also give him access to the medical specialist for his ailments.

The Ospital Ng Makati, situated along Malugay is just one proof of Mayor Binay's shrewdness and vision. Acquired from the Philippine National Bank for P12 million, the properties value today is easily P80 million. It is a prime Makati property.

Another aspect of Mayor Binay's human side is his ability to get angry. He curses when he's angry. Like a raging bull, he can fight and fight it will be to the finish. It must be the strong blood of the Batangueno in him. Just like the *kapeng barako* of Batangas, he can make our day.

Pope John the XXIII must have Mayor Jejomar C. Binay in mind when he wrote: "If a man, who has the riches of the world sees his brother in need, and closes his heart to him, how does the love of God abide in him." And Mayor Binay would have answered, "Amen."

Two S's, two A's, one P

SO here we are. The end of the line. For the three P's of the PBA: Purefoods, Pepsi and Pop Cola, it's early vacation time. Only one P remains—Presto for the semi-finals. And then there are the two A's — Alaska and Anejo. And the two S's — Shell and San Miguel.

That's the cast of characters for the series: two A's, two S's, one P. Did it ever occur to you that the eight PBA teams' names begin with those three letters? I don't know what significance that has. It just sounds interesting to me.

Well, looks like the P's weren't as lucky as the A's and S's.

Expectedly the expansion teams — Pop Cola and Pepsi — were the first to bow out although it has been said that if only Pop Cola had played with the same fire and fervour that it showed in its game against Alaska last Sunday, it might have stood a chance at a crack at the semis, what with strongman Alfrederick Hughes leading the assault.

Pido Jarencio played the game of his life. Elmer Reyes was, as usual, brainy and dazzling when his talents were needed most. Rookies Nap Hatton and Andy de Guzman lived up to expectation. Even if Alaska gave the Sizlers a scare towards the end, they kept their equilibrium and pulled off the caper. With two wins and seven losses in their slate, Pop did better than Pepsi in the standings. It avoided being at the bottom of the pack.

As for Pepsi a lot of fans will miss Derek Hamilton. Along with Alfrederick Hughes, Hamil-

ton, has been acknowledged as one "damned good import" in a not-yet-truly-older team.

"Saying," said import watchers who heaved a collective sigh at the early retirement of Pepsi and Pop. But that's the way the ball bounces, and anyway, being eliminated doesn't hurt that bad. Expansion teams don't expect to be champions on the first try. Their first year in the league is regarded as some sort of investment. Even San Miguel gambled on its young cast of rookies in 1986. In due time the new teams will gain their spurs, and when they do, it will be a totally new PBA.

Such is not the case with Purefoods, unfortunately. Now on its third year in the PBA the Hotdogs have suffered another frustrating season. Starting out the period with controversy over the alleged disinterest of Alvin Patrimonio to play for the team and practise with his crew, the Hotdogs nevertheless squeaked those rumours by producing Patrimonio who showed interest enough in the actual games to further the Hotdog cause.

But then came disappointing performances in the eliminations, the most heinous of which was the one against corporate rival, Pop Cola. Purefoods did not merely lose that one to Pop. Pop massacred Purefoods and it hurt — no, it smarted.

Within days Purefoods' ineffective import was on a plane back to his hometown. Apparently, Purefoods had been scouting around for a suitable replacement, and that guy was

Sylvester Grey.

But we all know the story behind Sylvester Grey. According to Purefoods, the hotshot had already agreed to plane in and play for Purefoods, but somewhere along the way another agent entered the picture and offered Grey a bigger package — supposedly from Anejo.

Anejo and Grey have since then denied this story, but that situations still left Purefoods with nothing to show. And though Purefoods was able to explain its situation to the media, it still had to play out the rest of its games in the eliminations without the needed reinforcement.

To make matters worse, the PBA was poised to fine it for not acquiring the services of an import as required by PBA rules. It was very clearly a Catch 22 situation.

Now all that is academic. The glamour team has met with all too familiar fate — early banishment. And Purefoods fans don't like it at all.

"What's wrong with our team?" they ask each other. "What can be wrong with our team? Man for man it's one of the best. When they were discussing who to send from the PBA to that Asian Games basketball competition in Beijing, they said the team's core should come from San Miguel and Purefoods. How can Purefoods now be down there at the bottom of the pack along with Pepsi and Pop Cola?"

In hard-to-explain situations like these, people look for answers. Worse, if answers are not provided, they provide their

own. One of the favourite theories offered by aficionados for the Purefoods failure is that the team still likes to play an individual game. Too many stars, they say. The superstars, especially, still think in terms of their individual statistics, not of team performance.

And then again they think the intrusion of showbiz into the basketball careers of Alvin Patrimonio and Jerry Codinera is reaping its ill effects. Although if that were true, the third member of this showbiz group — Bong Alvarez of Alaska — would be playing below par too. But he isn't.

Other fans are looking at the possibility of a rift or unhappy relations with management. But we are assured by an insider that the Hotdogs are well taken care of and that there is no rift whatsoever with management. Still, there are persistent reports about "low morale."

So then, what? Perhaps there is credence in the "superstar" theory. What Purefoods needs is a sense of team, an attitude towards team goals, not individual achievements. The San Miguel team is a good example. Everybody plays a well-defined role and there is no infighting for better exposure or better vantage points. Shell has also emerged into a well-organized, well-defined team. Everyone agrees with the Main Man's, and all the rest need to play their specific roles to complement that role.

Still these explanations and recommendations will not solve the ruffled feelings of Purefoods fans who have been frustrated long enough by their team's bridesmaid and odd-man finishes in the past years. They expect more fight out of their favourite team. They expect a championship, no less from this on-paper unbeatable team.

On the other hand there are the highly successful S's and A's in this semi-final round. How will they fare in the next few days? Will the leaders — Shell and Alaska — be able to hang on to their positions? Or will the placings change at the end of the period?

Frankly it's still a bit too early to tell, even at this late point, since fortunes have a way of changing even at the last minute. The real competition is only just beginning. The true test of player strengths and teamanship begins in April.

Sale of lands occupied by army camps pushed

AN influential House member said he will file soon an enabling act amending House resolution No. 1676 authorizing President Aquino to sell the land occupied by the military camps in Metro Manila once they are transferred to the two US military bases.

Pangasinan Rep. Jose de Venecia, chairman of the House committee on foreign affairs, made the disclosure as he fully supported the resolution filed by Negros Oriental Rep. Miguel Romero.

Romero's resolution called for the immediate suspension of the scheduled exploratory talks between the Philippines and US panel on the two giant US military facilities in the country slated for the third week of April.

The resolution also called for the immediate transfer of the Metro Manila military camps — Camp Aguinaldo, Camp Crame, Fort Bonifacio, Villamor air base and the headquarters of the Philippine Navy along Roxas boulevard — to Clark air base in Angeles city and Subic naval base in Olongapo city.

De Venecia, describing Romero's resolution as laudable, practical and pro-Filipino, said such resolution needs the full support of his committee. The Pangasinan solon added that his committee will also propose the creation of a base land authority to oversee and supervise the immediate transfer of the military camps to both Clark and Subic, the joint and unhampered civilian military use of both bases by both Americans and Filipinos and the eventual phasing out and turnover of all military facilities in the country in the event US authorities decide to abandon the bases in the country.

As far as he is concerned, De Venecia told newsmen that the Joint Executive Legislative Council, of which he is member, has already signed and recommended several options and recommendations on the alternative and practical uses of the two giant military bases the moment the Philippine government decides to phase out those bases.

In today's meeting of the council, De Venecia said Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos and AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Renato de Villa have requested the retention of the respective offices of the defence establishment and the AFP General Headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo and the maintenance of small units. (PNA).

Over P5.6b in benefits won by workers in CBAs

OVER P5.6 billion in economic benefits have been won by the workers through collective bargaining.

Labour Secretary Ruben D. Torres cited the gains of organized labour through collective bargaining shortly after President Aquino appointed 55 labour and employers representatives to the National Wage and Productivity Commission (NWPC) and 13 regional wage and productivity boards.

"This shows that collective bargaining is still the best and most effective way for workers to boost themselves economically," he said. He said the P5.6-billion windfall benefited some 92,534 workers each of them getting about P61,000.

"Workers cannot get that kind of bonanza through government intervention," Torres said, adding that workers should aim to get as much concession as possible from the firms and establishments with large incomes.

Torres expressed the hope that the formation of NWPC and the regional wage and productivity boards which are empowered to fix the minimum wage on a regional, provincial or industry basis will provide the kind of flexibility and versatility that organized labour can utilize fully in bringing about more meaningful wage arrangements for workers.

He said NWPC will serve to backstop the regional boards with pertinent studies and policy guidance.

"It can approve or reject the recommendations of the wage boards but not alter the figures or level recommended," he said.





Accessories' Queen

"I STARTED working when I was eight because I wanted to declare independence from my parents. Since I am the second to the youngest in the family, I was a bit spoiled but later I decided to stand on my own feet and not just rely on my parents."

Beth Co., who is now dubbed as queen of fashion accessories, also wanted people to know that the young can be as responsible as any adult and can be as hardworking as any of her working peers.

Her first job with which she paid her tuition fees for her Economics degree from PSBA was as sales representative for Colliers Encyclopedia. When she applied for the job, the management took one look at her and said something like she's too young and that she didn't look poor.

"But I was very determined and persistent and for months I worked without a fixed salary but on a commission basis." In a few months, she became the top seller but not without undergoing several difficulties. She used to lug the sample encyclopedia, heavy as they are, waking up at five in the morning, leaving the house at six, hailing a cab to where new subdivisions are located and calling on three or four houses, knocking on their doors to present her sales pitch.

"Those are the ones who are ready to buy because they are just starting everything. I was lucky in that I seldom was refused by the homeowners. So even if the work was hard, it was made lighter whenever I'd make a sale."

In six months' time, Beth became a unit manager, had a regular income, aside from her commissions and was trainer for new sales reps.

"I got my own car, enjoyed life with other teenagers but I was not satisfied. It was as if my life was not fulfilled. There was no challenge anymore since there's no point in going further unless I got to be the owner of Colliers and that's impossible."

When she found herself without any income again, she started selling maang which was the trend at that time. She'd go from one store to another falling in line in the office of marketing managers and sometimes no one paid any attention to her.

"I vowed I'd make them notice me, and due to my persistence, they did. I was determined to start from scratch again. I was the deliverer, collector, purchaser, but I didn't mind. Later, I was happy again for I had a good income from my sales."

But as fast as she earned money, she was just as fast in spending it. Until one day, she came to her senses. She was not getting any younger and she had very little savings left. Since she wanted to be secured in her future, she embarked on a business which from the very beginning was at the back of her mind — fashion accessories. She was just waiting for the right time.

"I was still a student when I realized that I like to create artistic accessories, starting with bracelets and brooches. I would gather beads and pearls, and fashion them into brooches and necklaces although very roughly made. Then and there, I decided to make it a profession."

At first, with the little capital that she had, Beth supplied the different department stores with her accessories. But it was Gibson which gave her a place in its store with which to sell her things. Everyday it was a sell-out. So she asked herself — "Why don't I

open my own store where I can sell my stuff?" And she did. Contacting a very good artist who helped her in her creative work, Beth opened her own store last year on the second floor of SM City annex.

Marcella, that's the name... is the only store hereabouts which sell distinctive new collections of accessories for both sexes. Thousands of varieties of earrings, rings, bracelets... brooches, anklets and even punkista necklaces for the males are yours to choose at Marcella. The accessories enjoy nationwide esteem and popularity for their consummate artistry and unflinching quality in elegance.

Beth gets her ideas from magazines and books and, would you believe, sometimes from nature, like a leaf, a flower, a rainbow, the sun, the moon, the stars, anything and anywhere.

Ask Dawn Zulueta, Vilam Santos, Sharon Cune, Janice and Gellie de Belen, Nora Aunor, Gretchen Barretto, Mariel Laxa and lately Kris Aquino, where they obtain the accessories they wear for their TV shows and they will tell you — from Marcella. Dawn was her signature model last year and it's Gretchen this year. But Beth is very particular as to who should wear her accessories especially where movie stars are concerned.

"First, I study each personality and how she performs on TV, stage and the movies. Even the shape of the face. Does she have poise? Has she a strong personality or is she shy or serene or is she the quiet, mousy type? Is she vivacious, does she project sophistication? The accessories should complement the type of personality or character a person possesses. Ah, yes, I forgot the clothes. One should have the right accessories for certain clothes. Dangling earrings are not really intended for Ermita girls, if you know what I mean. They look nice for women with long hair. One should never wear glittering accessories if they're wearing maang. For black outfits, gold earrings are the best."

Pearls, she says, are not easy to wear for women with fair complexion, and why are women especially lady executives, ashamed to wear big earrings? They balance the smart tailored clothes or the slim skirt and blouse that women executives are supposed to wear while in their offices.

Beth's products are actually 60 per cent imported semi-precious stones and 40 per cent local ones. She has every kind for the A.B.C. and D types and she does not care whether a customer is that or that type because she believes everyone has the right to improve or beautify herself, and with the right accessories that can greatly enhance one's personality.

"A woman who thinks and feels beautiful, will look beautiful. There is no plain woman if she only knows how to project herself with the right clothes and accessories."

At 25, Beth does not yet think of marriage. Her fiancé of seven years has waited patiently for this length of time but it seems that she is still preoccupied with her work. What if he gets tired of waiting?

She laughed. "He has waited for seven years and I think he can wait for another year or two. If it's our fate, so be it, if not, que sera sera. I'm opening a branch at SM Sta. Mesa and SM Mega Mall at Edsa. After that, maybe..."

Singles review

● **You Were Meant for Me** — Regine Velasquez (Victor). Regine could easily pass off a foreign act anytime, but the Anita Baker mimicking is not doing her any good. I think the girl is having an identity crisis, or maybe she's been listening to a lot of Baker's albums lately. Okay, she's into jazz, but she's just being merely an Anita Baker clone. What we want to hear is the real Regine Velasquez, sans the copying hit.

● **Thagging Kailan** — Martin Nievera (Victor). This one sounds just like Earth, Wind & Fire's minor hit "Miracle," except for the chorus and the management. Andie Dizon, the songwriter, might have written this ballad without even hearing EWF's "Miracle" — it happens every time, you know. One question: When will Martin Nievera stop giving us nakakalungkut ballads?

● **Any Other Fool** — Sadan Watanabe (WEA). Culled from the latest album, *Front Seat*, this single features vocals by Patu Austin and tenor sax by the venerable Sudo Watanabe. Expect the major FM stations to play this hook-laden cut anytime.

● **Downtown Train (Fade)** — Rod Stewart (WEA). Lifted off Rod Stewart's latest, *Storyteller/The Complete Anthology*, this first single, written by Tom Waits, may not be as strong as Rod's "The Mod" Stewart's previous hits — but the imitable raspy voice and rock 'n' roll stance are still evident.

● **Cruel as Cruel** — Isabel Granada (Dyna). Another regular member of *That's Entertainment* invades the music scene via this uptempo duet written by C.L. Manahan. I have seen Isabel Granada promoting this with matching choreography on the boobtube and all I can say is... good luck and I hope it clicks.

● **Unlabeled Ka Paas sa Akim** — Tina Paner (Dyna). The third single off Tina Paner's self-titled debut LP — "what do you know... a love song but of course!" hope that Jimmy Aniporda (the arranger of this one) magic wand is still working.

● **Friends** — Atlantic Starr (WEA). The group was rumored to give concerts here, but it fizzled off at the last minute. *Friends* is commercial enough, but it lacks the recall of *Always and Secret Lovers*, the smash hits of Atlantic Starr.

NOTES: The just concluded "Nievera & Son" (retitled "Martin Nievera: The Son") February show of the supposed father and son team-up was a resounding success, even if the father backed-off due to some misunderstanding with the son. Notable was the impromptu numbers by Pops Fernandez and the old songs done by Martin that should have been his father's repertoire... When will Regine Velasquez get a good courtier? She almost always looks funny everytime I see her on TV and in concerts looking like a trying hard ramp model... The Gidle beer "Dugungan Mo" contest in *Lunch Date* is a refreshing change. Wouldn't it be great if OPM artists compete, instead of nameless thugs, in a kind of channel 7's noontime show... The first solo album of Eddie Kaundig for OctoArts featuring Sasa Masat Muli and Nandito has surpassed the gold 120 thou unit mark. Octo insiders predict that from all indications, the platinum status will not be far behind. Kudos to Eddie K, the country's premier jazz saxophonist... The original members of Side A, that jazz-rock conglomeration, except for three, have left the group for greener pastures. I personally like what Side A have been doing, but in all honesty, the vocalist's persona remains a hindrance up to this time... Sharon Cuneta, the megastar, seems to be delving on jazz these days. Catch her in her weekly TV show and chances are you'll see a different megastar. The shift from pop to jazz is one sign that she's maturing gracefully. Forget the crap about her being a shabu user... If you dig live rock and underground music, go to Red Rocks located in Timog Ave., Q.C. Big nights are on Fridays and Saturdays. You might also want to meet the *crème de la crème* of this generation's counter-culture (vultures) poets, artists, writers and musicians over a bottle of the *ang may pinagmamahaman*. Caught Pete Canzon and his band at Birdland one time and they just ruined a lovely evening. The bassist ad libs with impunity, the drummer is out of time and Pete Canzon makes up for a bad night doing extended renditions of the cover versions. My wife was like a zombie (and she hasn't drank the concoction either) after we hurriedly left the place... There's this new jazz joint located in Annapolis St. in Greenhills called Cosmo that features live music. Check out the core players... The U.P. Jazz Ensemble, if you go for mainstream jazz, is one group to reckon with. Composed of former and present U.P. Conservatory of Music students, with the able leadership of Prof. Rayben Maigle (brother of classical flutist Tony) — the group is fast gaining an army of followers... Dyna has just released a compilation — featuring Gang Of Four, Midge Ure, The Colourfield, Mighty Lemon Drops and Orissey (to name a few) — called *Different Tribes*. This is a must-buy for all modern rock enthusiasts... If you have been following Lea Salonga's career you'll notice that — after the gruelling pace needed for *Miss Saigon* — she has changed a lot. Her voice is now hoarse and she has grown thin (with eyebags to boot), the soap commercial can attest to that... Caught two great music videos lately that are cuts above the rest. One is *Romance* by The B-52's, and the other one is *Opposites Attract* by former choreographer Paula Abdul. *Romance* features a collage of different countries with the super-imposed faces of the band's members. It's a picture perfect poster. *Opposites Attract* is a medium that has Paula Abdul cowering with an animated character a la *Who Framed Roger Rabbit?* *Tinong parang ginastusan ang dalagang videos*.



Eddie K, the country's premier jazz saxophonist

From the provinces

SAN PEDRO, Laguna: "Laguna Lake Leader," a newsmagazine for the Laguna de Bay region composed of some Metro Manila towns and the provinces of Rizal and Laguna, will be launched soon, it was announced by its publishers and editors.

The newsmagazine will focus on the problems and prospects in the region and how the officials, sectoral leaders and the people are responding to them, according to Art G. Gacutan, chairman of the board of editors, and J.C. Castro Jr. editor.

The maiden issue of the magazine will feature the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) and other topics, Castro said.

PASAY CITY: A promise by a woman not to file a murder charge against her husband led to the surrender of a 39-year-old businessman who reportedly shot dead his brother-in-law last New Year's eve here.

Leonardo Salcedo, 39, of 117 E Flores St., Malibay, Pasay, surrendered yesterday to his neighbor, lawyer Arguz Gonzaga of the National Police Commission (Napolcom).

Earlier, his wife pledged to him that she will not file murder charge against him.

Salcedo was accused of killing his wife's brother, Cirilo Dotoello, 45, also a businessman.

Police said that a witness pointed to Salcedo as the one who shot Dotoello following a heated argument in front of Salcedo's house.

The suspect was turned over to Col Rogelio Domingo, Pasay City police chief. He was brought to prosecutor Angel Ragaza for preliminary investigation.

OLONGAPO CITY: A dialogue between prosecutors and police officers exposed many flaws of the system for the prosecution of persons caught "red-handed" for various crimes.

Because of the flaws, they are set free either by the arresting officers or by the prosecutors.

The dialogue, called by Metrodiscom chief Lieut Col MacArthur Torres, was held after police officers complained that the efforts of policemen apprehending criminals or suspects have gone to waste because the prosecutors released them.

The police officers cited instances in which the prosecutors had dismissed information filed against suspects caught "red-handed."

City prosecutor Vivencio Bacig and provincial prosecutor Rodolfo Oreillo blamed some arresting officers for the big number of dismissed cases, most of which had "inside the fiscal's office but they did not even bother to identify themselves."

"Believing the government was not interested in the case, I dismissed it outright," he said.

MANILA: A pretty employee, reportedly depressed over her love life, committed suicide in a hotel room in Sta Cruz, Manila.

Nelfa Concepcion, 21, of Quezon City, was found dead by hotel boy Gerardo Ola, 23, at 9 a.m. at Room No. 2 on the second floor of the RG Inn Hotel. Police found beside the body a bottle of insecticide.

MANILA: Transportation and Communications Secretary Oscar M. Orlos has ordered the Land Transportation Office (LTO) service to apprehend and impound huses of a tour-travel firm clandestinely plying the Manila-Bicol route.

The firm, Penafancia Tours and Travel Transport (PTT), is still applying for a franchise to operate along the Manila-Bicol route and has not yet been given an authority by the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB).

Orlos ordered the impounding of the huses after the company reportedly defied a decision of the LTFRB dismissing the PTT application.

Records show that legitimate bus operators plying the route complained last November to the Department of Transport and Communications (DOTC) and LTO of the colorum operations of PTT.

It was noted that PTT applied for a certificate of public convenience (CPC) after a complaint was filed by the operators.

After hearing the PTT application, the LTFRB dismissed last Feb 6 the application due to failure of the firm to comply with the requirement that it should notify all the affected bus operators on the route applied for.

PASAY CITY: A Japanese national was seriously injured when he reportedly attempted to commit suicide by jumping from the sixth floor of a hotel in Pasay City.

Police identified the victim as Mizoguchi Shigenobu who was hilled at Room 41 of Capacabana Hotel, Lovina St., Pasay City.

He was taken to San Juan de Dios Hospital for treatment of severe bone fractures.

Police said that before the suicide attempt, Shigenobu was with a friend identified as Okada Yoshi Katsu.

Katsu told probes that the victim was depressed when he lost his 30,000 yen, P18,000 cash, and his gold bracelet during his recent stay in Cebu City. It was not known how the victim lost the cash and valuables.

MANILA: Three rookie or new policemen of the Western Police District (WPD) arrested two of four holdup men in a Bulacan-bound passenger bus who robbed a commercial photographer in a jeepney in Sta Cruz, Manila.

Col Ernesto Diokno, WPD superintendent, said the three rookies — Dennis Javier, Luis Chico, and Edwin de la Cruz, all of the patrol division — recovered the P22,000 cash from the suspects and returned it to Marcelino Antonio, 38, photographer of Bob's Studio.

LAOAG CITY: Transportation and Communications Secretary Oscar Orlos said recently that the Department of Transport and Communications (DOTC) will look into a proposal for the installation of a direct-dialing telephone system in the city.

Orlos, who led recent rites for the reopening of Laoag International Airport, told Laoag Councillor Cua Bee Jr that his office will study the proposal to improve long-distance telephone facilities in the city.

Bee conveyed to the secretary the clamour of the Laoagenos for the establishment of direct-dialing phone system in Laoag.

During a city council session, he urged his colleagues to pass a resolution supporting the project.

The PLDT (Philippines Long Distance Telephone) is the franchisee here. It is a sister company of Filphone which operates a direct-dialing phone system in Batac, Pasay, Currimao, and Dingras.

PASAY CITY: Two of four suspected holdup men who allegedly shot and killed a Pasay policeman were arrested by police operatives in Pasay City.

Capt Armando Aprid, criminal investigation division chief, identified the arrested suspects as Jose Lozada, 31, and Rolando Gojo of 715 Barrio Pagasa, Imus, Cavite.

Gojo was wounded in the left leg when he reportedly shot it out with the policemen, reports said.

Gojo and Lozada were among four suspects in the killing of Pfc. Emmanuel Pajilio, 37, of mobile patrol division who was being tried to arrest them at the corner of EDSA and C. Revilla St.

Pat Alfredo Tayawa, Pajilio's companion, said that they noticed that one of the four men had a handgun wrapped in a newspaper.

As the lawmen approached the four, they were fired upon. A shootout ensued.

The two suspects were arrested at the San Juan de Dios Hospital where Lozada was taken for treatment.

A police reinforcement gunned down the third suspect, Jose Gerona, at a vacant lot on Cuneta Ave.

Another suspect, identified as Salvador Hiluwa, 23, of Kawaii, Cavite, escaped.

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By Miguel Zarate

OBVIOUSLY, Emil planned to rob Gorgonio's apartment. And I was to be an accessory. I was scared. I'd give anything just to be out of it but he set his mind on me being his partner in crime.

"Now listen carefully," Emil proceeded. "I have here a whole set of keys from the locksmith who happens to be our relative. I'll find one that'll fit the elevator. We'll have to test them out one night when Bonnie goes down to the basement. Then we'll come back on a night when Gorgonio and his wife are out."

But that's hurgury, I protested. "Emil..."

"So what's wrong with hurgury?" he said, in a kind of raspy voice. "You thing I'm going to wait around until I starved to death, trying to go straight? Not me boy! Not me."

"But Emil..."

"No more buts, boy. I've got the whole thing planned. This elevator's and old one, an antique. The lock should be easy to pick. If you don't want to help me with the key business, okay. But I'll need you when the time comes to do the job. Okay?"

I wanted to refuse, desperately. But it was always hard to refuse the old Emil, the one without the police record. Refusing the new one — the ex-con, was virtually impossible.

"Okay," I said deparinly, hoping that he wouldn't solve the key problem. "Okay, Emil. Whatever you say."

But whatever hopes I had that Emil wouldn't find a key for the lock swiftly vanished. I should've known that Emil was too clever to find a simple task like that. Within four days, he happily reported success. He had the little strip of curvy metal that would let us into the penthouse elevator, and all we had to do was to wait for the owners to leave the apartment long enough for us to clean it out.

It was the cold season, just a few weeks before Christmas when we started our vigil

THE CRIMINAL

outside the apartment building. I was wearing the only jacket I had since my fifteenth birthday but I still shivered so much, partly because of the weather and mostly because I was nervous that my teeth ached. For ten nights we watched the apartment, but the Gorgonios never seemed to go anywhere. After a while, I began to have the disturbing notion that Emil, with his defective eyesight, wouldn't recognize them if they did come out of the building.

At the start of the third week of our stakeout, I was whining and complaining about the assignment, and the more I whined the tougher Emil talked. One Friday night, I didn't show up until after eight-thirty (our vigil began promptly at seven) and Emil was mad. Especially since he had seen the Gorgonios step out of the building and into a taxi.

"This is it," he told me, with the intent look in his eyes magnified by the thick eyeglasses. "The penthouse is empty. Now all we got to do is a wait for Bonnie to get thirsty."

It took another two hours before that happened, and it seemed like a week to me. The more I thought about the caper, the less I liked it. My shivers weren't helping either.

"Okay," Emil said excitedly. "He just went down to the basement. Let's get started!" We hurried across the street dodging traffic. We went into the lobby of the building, and Emil strode directly around the corner to the door marked PRIVATE ELEVATOR. I watched him dig into his pocket and produce a key. In another five seconds, he slid back the door, and we were entering a tiny box padded with green upholstery. He closed the door, grinning at me, and pressed the button marked UP.

The ride seemed endless, and there was

nothing but darkness facing us when it was over. The darkness turned out to be a velvet curtain in the penthouse, draped across the front of the elevator cage. Emil pushed it aside, and we stepped out on a carpet so thick I almost tripped and fell.

"We did it!" Emil cried. "Easy as a picnic!"

I tried to say something, but couldn't. I watched as Emil yanked out a flashlight from his pocket and pointed the beam over the floor. I caught a spotlighted glimpse of some bulky dark furniture in the huge livingroom. Then Emil turned the light onto his wrist and frowned.

"It's almost eleven," he said. "We'll have to work fast."

"Emil," I said, in a choked voice. "What is it?"

"I don't know..."

I did know, but I hated to tell Emil. Either it was nervousness or the cold weather or just plain nature, but there was something I just had to do.

"What is it?" Emil said again, grabbing my arm.

"The bathroom," I gasped. "I have to go to the bathroom!"

"You what?"

"I'm sorry Emil. But I just have to..."

He looked at me contemptuously. Then he clucked his tongue and said, "Okay. So you can relieve yourself when we get out of here."

"No," I said meekly. "I should go now. Emil. This place must have a toilet."

He slapped his forehead in disgust, and went striding into the living room. He flashed the light around for a minute, and then came back. He shoved me in front of him.

"Okay, in there. But hurry up, you stupid boy!"

"Thanks," I said humbly, and hurried

inside.

When I was ready to leave the toilet, I turned the knob of the door, but the door wouldn't open. I fiddled with the lock to see if I hadn't snapped it by mistake or habit, but the lock wasn't the problem. The door must've been warped a little, so I pushed harder against it. It still didn't open, so I whispered louder, "Hey, Emil! Emil!" He didn't hear me, so I whispered louder. "Emil! Help me open this door!"

I could hear him from the other side, saying, "What?"

"The door," I answered. "It's stuck from this side. Open it, will you?"

The knob rattled, and Emil said, "Open the lock, you fool!"

"I didn't use the lock. I think maybe the door's warped. It's stuck so please push it."

He made some effort, but it didn't do any good. I said, "Look, I'll push from this side and you pull it, okay?"

I heard him curse, and then we both began pulling and pushing, but the door wouldn't open, not even a fraction.

"What's the matter with you?" Emil said angrily. "Push it real hard!"

I threw myself against the door and almost broke my shoulder. It wasn't a very big toilet, despite the obvious plushness of the apartment, and there wasn't much room for me to get a running start.

"I can't open it!" I yelled, getting panicky. "I'm locked in, Emil!"

"Try. Try harder!"

I did. I began to hammer the door with all the strength in my body, which isn't exactly much. I forgot all about being cautious and began to kick the door, but I couldn't even budge it. I could hear Emil moaning and swearing, and the concern I was feeling was rapidly developing into first class panic.

I was about to give the door another kick when there was a loud scream. It sounded like Emil and then it was quiet.

To Be Continued

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Borg loses \$2 million court battle

STOCKHOLM, April 7. (Reuters) Five times Wimbledon champion Bjorn Borg suffered a defeat in court, when he was ordered to pay creditors of his failed business empire between 10 and 12 million crowns (1.65 and two million dollars).

Stockholm District Court said an earlier agreement by the former tennis ace to pay his Swedish creditors was valid, and half the payments must be completed by June.

Borg, 33, disputes the exact amount owed to creditors of Bjorn Borg Invest AB, maintaining that some transactions were carried out without his permission.

But a court-appointed liquidator said yesterday the two sides agreed that at least 10 million crowns was Borg's responsibility.

Since quitting the professional tennis circuit at the age of 27, Borg built up an exclusive design and fashion retail business with a holding company in the tax haven of Jersey, but the group went into liquidation last year.

Borg, who is no stranger to controversy, has a personal fortune estimated at about \$100 million.

As well as litigation arising out of his

failed business, he is suing Sweden's 'Z' magazine over an allegation that he was addicted to cocaine, and disputing with former girlfriend Jannike Bjorling the custody of their son Robin.

Lars Skarke, his one-time friend and business partner, is suing Borg for \$80 million damages over the collapse of the group, in which Skarke owned 25 per cent of the shares and Borg the rest.

Sports medicine becomes speciality

CLEVELAND, April 7. (AP) Joe Namath's knees Tommy John's elbow. Dave Dravecky's cancer.

They've all been dramatic stories of courage, watched closely by sports fans nationwide. And in no small way, high-profile cases like these have been with the cause and the result of an explosion in the field of sports medicine over the past 25 years.

Last month, 470 team doctors gathered in Scottsdale, Arizona, for the second of three annual sports medicine seminars, with topics ranging from "Biomechanics of the throwing athlete's shoulder" to "Special dietary measures for the athlete."

Twenty-five years ago, you'd have been hard-pressed to find such a seminar, or enough interested doctors to make it worthwhile, says Dr John A. Bergfeld, team doctor for the Cleveland Browns and co-chairman of the meeting.

"There have been physicians concentrating in sports medicine Europe since the turn of the century, but not here," Bergfeld said in a recent interview at his Cleveland clinic office. "I'm not sure why, because we're a very sports-minded country."

Focusing Physicians and trainers have been looking after athletes here for decades, of course. But sports doctors in the United States didn't begin comparing notes regularly until the mid-1960s, when Namath's gimpy knees focused nationwide attention on Dr James A. Nicholas, the New York Jets' team doctor.

"That's when the term 'sports medicine' was really coined here," Bergfeld said. "There was the day-to-day Joe Namath knees story, and then he went to the Super Bowl. People began to read that there was this man who was a sports medicine specialist, and they started saying, 'gee, maybe I need a sports specialist.'"

Nicholas said that when he became a sports doctor in 1960, Dr Don O'Donoghue, a teacher at the University of Oklahoma's medical school, had written a textbook on athletic injuries that contained a majority of what was known about the discipline at the time.

O'Donoghue's pioneering work with ligament damage, with Nicholas and others used to revive the careers of scores of professional athletes, was followed by a series of successes by Dr Frank Jobe, who succeeded sports medicine pioneer Dr Robert Kerlan as the Los Angeles Dodgers' team doctor.

Jobe refined surgical techniques for repairing torn rotator cuffs, and he also received attention for his knee surgeries on basketball players such as Wilt Chamberlain, Elgin Baylor and Jerry West.

Perhaps the single most famous success story in sports medicine was Jobe's reconstruction of pitcher Tommy John's elbow in 1975. Jobe took a ligament from John's right forearm and used it to rebuild John's injured left elbow.

The left-handed John won 90 games over the next five years, including three seasons with 20 or more wins, and he continued pitching throughout the 1980s. His story encouraged other injured athletes to persevere.

Tremendous "For someone like that to have at operation and win 20 games... has done a tremendous amount for sports medicine," Tom Candiotti, now a pitcher for the Indians, was quoted as saying in 1983. "Someone like me should really be grateful for someone like him."

Candiotti underwent an operation similar to John's in 1981.

Scrutiny of athletes' injured knees and ankles is helping doctors better understand joint malfunctions such as arthritis, Bergfeld said, and he years for the day, maybe 10 years from now, when invention of a functional artificial ligament will aid athletes and non-athletes alike.

Videotaped replays of injuries that seem morbid to the general public have given doctors insight into the way joints react to stresses, Bergfeld frequently watches videos of his patients' injuries to help determine how they occurred and whether they might have been prevented.

Navratilova, Capriati win

Rajchrtova stuns Garrison



Navratilova scores an easy victory

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, South Carolina, April 7. (UPI) Three-time champion and top-seeded Martina Navratilova steamrolled past No. 5 seed Katerina Maleeva 6-0, 6-1 yesterday in the fourth round of the \$500,000 Family Circle Magazine Cup tournament.

Navratilova avenged last week's loss to Maleeva in the semifinals of the Virginia Slims of Houston tournament, and advanced to this evening's semifinal against unseeded Regina Rajchrtova of Czechoslovakia, who upset No. 3 seed Zina Garrison 4-6, 6-3, 6-1.

Meanwhile, teenager Jennifer Capriati eliminated her third-seeded opponent, defeating No. 3 seed Helen Kelesi of Canada 6-2, 4-6, 6-1. Capriati's other tournament victims were No. 13 seed Susan Sloane, unseeded Angeliki Kanellopoulou, and No. 2 seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario.

Navratilova, considered the tournament favorite, blew out Maleeva in 55 minutes, tallying four aces and scoring 35 of 49 points on her serve. Maleeva, who lost five of six serves, did not win a game until midway through the second set.

"I was very intent the whole match," Navratilova said. "In Houston, (Maleeva) was in the net 17 of 20 times. She never

made it to the net today. That should indicate the turnaround I made."

Until yesterday, Capriati had sliced through her opponents like a buzzsaw, breezing to two-set victories in less than an hour in each of her three previous matches. A determined Kelesi gave the teenager her toughest challenge so far, forcing to play three sets in a match that lasted 1 hour and 51 minutes.

It would have been nice to win like I have the other matches," Capriati said.

Capriati, however, pinned Kelesi to the baseline and kept the Canadian off balance with blistering ground strokes to secure the victory.

"I couldn't get my rhythm because I was so worried about her rhythm," Kelesi said.

In another match yesterday, No. 6 seed Natalia Zvereva of the Soviet Union defeated No. 4 seed Conchita Martinez of Spain 7-6 (8-6), 6-0.

Garrison, who had struggled Thursday before defeating unseeded Linda Ferrando 6-2, 4-6, 7-5, won the first set against Rajchrtova 4-6. The tall, lanky Czechoslovakian, who had upset seventh-seeded Laura Gildemeister Thursday, rebounded to win second set 6-3 and overwhelmed Garrison in the third set 6-1.

Gilbert tames Rive

ORLANDO, Fla., April 7. (Reuters) Top-seed Brad Gilbert marched steadily into the semifinals of the \$250,000 Orlando Tennis Classic with a solid 6-3 6-3 victory over fellow American Joey Rive yesterday.

The fifth-ranked Gilbert was pure precision as he dissected Rive in just 70 minutes to advance to a semifinal against American qualifier Malivi Washington.

"I feel I can control the situation and dictate the way I want things to go. I'm doing good," Gilbert said.

Washington, ranked 152nd in the world, upset fourth-seeded countryman Scott Davis 6-3 7-5 to reach his first semifinal since turning professional last September.

"It's a very big win for me," said the 20-year-old Washington, who was the number one college player in the United States in 1988 and 1989. "Anytime you get to a semi this early in your career

it's big. I hope I can go a little farther and keep doing well."

The other semifinal pits third-seed Christo van Rensburg of South Africa against unseeded American David Este.

Van Rensburg struggled to eliminate 19-year-old Australian Jason Stoltenberg 6-4 6-1 and Este posted a 6-4 7-6 win over unseeded West German Alexis Hombroeder, who reached the quarters on a walk-over when second seed Aaron Krickstein withdrew with an injury.

The 117th-ranked Rive's serve-and-volley game was effectively neutralized by Gilbert whose strong return of serve halted Rive's path to the net.

Gilbert broke Rive twice in the opening set and needed just one early service break in the second set to claim his victory and earn the respect of his opponent.

Edberg defeats Chang

HONG KONG, April 7. (AP) Sweden's Stefan Edberg beat Michael Chang of the United States 7-6 (7-2), 6-4 yesterday in an exhibition tennis match.

Edberg, 24, who recently overtook West German Boris Becker as the world's second-ranked player, opened the

match against Chang with an ace and saved two set points before sweeping the

breakers 7-2.

The Swede broke the American in the fifth and seventh games in the second set. Although Chang broke back in the eighth, it was not enough to stop Edberg.

Arrese triumphs

LISBON, April 7. (Reuters) Spain's Jordi Arrese knocked out top-seeded American Jay Berger in the quarterfinals of the \$250,000 Estoril Open tennis tournament yesterday.

Berger, ranked eighth in the world, lost 4-6 6-3 7-5 to Arrese, number 42.

Arrese's compatriot, third-seeded Emilio Sanchez Vicario, beat Italian Omar Camporese 6-3 6-3.

Sanchez, the only remaining seed, plays Arrese in the semifinals. Spanish Juan Aguirre faces Argentine Franco Davia in the other last-four tie.

Spanish rider wins Basque cycling race

LEGAZPIA, Spain, April 7. (Reuters) Spanish rider Gorospe edged Rolf Golz of West Germany yesterday to win the 30th Tour of the Basque country cycling race.

Gorospe had a total time of 21 hours, 1 minute and 29 seconds for the 824-kilometre (510-mile) race, followed by Golz 20 seconds behind and Miguel Indurain of Spain 22 seconds behind.

The fifth and last leg was divided into two parts. Indurain won the first part, a road of 120 kilometres (75 miles) between Salvatierra and Legazpia, covering the distance in two hours, 51 minutes and 18 seconds.

Udo Bolts of West Germany was second and Marino Lejarreta of Spain was third, both two seconds behind the winner.

Brian Walton of Canada won the second part of the final leg, an individual time trial over 7.1 kilometres (4.4 miles) around a circuit in Legazpia. Walton was clocked in 10 minutes and 28 seconds, followed by Gorospe 1 second behind, and Indurain 2 seconds behind.



76ers' Charles Barkley (right) is fouled under the basket by Knicks' Kenny Walker. (Reuters wirephoto)

Celtics stop Cavaliers

Knicks rout 76ers

NEW YORK, April 7. (AP) Patrick Ewing had 37 points, 19 rebounds and nine blocked shots as the New York Knicks beat Philadelphia 114-104 last night to clinch National Basketball Association playoff berth and snap the 76ers' eight-game winning streak.

Ewing had 22 points, 12 rebounds and seven blocks in the first half as the Knicks raced to a 65-50 lead. Kiki Vandeweghe scored 12 of his 24 points during a 10-minute spurt that turned a 32-32 tie into a 65-47 Knicks lead with 37 seconds remaining in the half.

Celtics 106, Cavaliers 104 Kevin McHale scored 30 points and Larry Bird had a triple-double as Boston got its first road win over Cleveland in four years.

The loss dropped Cleveland into a tie with Atlanta for the eighth and final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference. Boston, which has won nine of its last 12 games, had lost eight straight at Richfield Coliseum.

Bucks 92, Pistons 84 Brad Lohaus scored 25 points, including six 3-pointers, and Milwaukee ended Detroit's 15-game home winning streak.

Detroit entered the game with a 32-2 home record, while the Bucks were just 15-22 on the road.

Milwaukee led 76-69 with 7:44 remaining, but the Pistons scored seven straight points to tie

it with 4:32 left. The game was still tied, 81-81, with 2:52 remaining, but the Bucks took the lead for good 40 seconds later on two free throws by Fred Roberts.

Warriors 123, Nets 117 Tim Hardaway scored 21 points and Chris Mullin added 20 as Golden State held off New Jersey to win its third straight.

The Warriors, battling for the final playoff spot in the Western Conference, handed the Nets their fourth consecutive loss and 15th in 16 games.

Hornets 108, Timberwolves 93 Kelly Tripucka, who missed 11 of his first 12 shots, finished with 21 points, nine rebounds and nine assists as the Hornets won for the seventh time in 12 games.

Pacers 123, Magic 115 Reggie Miller scored 16 of his 38 points in the fourth quarter as the Pacers handed Orlando its eighth straight loss.

The Pacers moved two games ahead of Cleveland and Atlanta in the battle for the final two playoff spots in the Eastern Conference.

Results Charlotte 108 Minnesota 93 Boston 109 Cleveland 104 Golden State 123 New Jersey 117 Indiana 123 Orlando 117 Milwaukee 92 Detroit 84 Washington 121 Houston 84 New York 114 Philadelphia 104 Denver 119 Seattle 103 L.A. Lakers 103 Phoenix 99 Portland 106 L.A. Clippers 99

Tyson and Foreman may share June card

LAS VEGAS, April 7. (Reuters) Mike Tyson will make his return to the ring in June headlining a Las Vegas fight card that will also include George Foreman, according to a source close to the deposed heavyweight champion.

Foreman is scheduled to fight Adelson Rodriguez of Brazil on June 15 on the undercard of a show featuring Tyson in his first bout since his stunning upset at the hands of James "Buster" Douglas in February in Tokyo.

Tyson's next opponent has not yet been selected, but the fight is expected to take place at Caesars Palace, said the source who asked not to be named.

The hotel's spokesman was unavailable to confirm the report of the bill featuring the two former heavyweight champions.

Before his June fight, Foreman, who is undefeated in his unlikely comeback following a 10-year layoff, will meet fellow American Michael Greer at Lake Tahoe, Nevada in late April or early May.

Floyd leads charge of veterans at Masters tourney

AUGUSTA, GA., April 7. (Reuters) Raymond Floyd charged past the first-time players that ruled the Masters on opening day by firing a 68 yesterday to take a one-shot lead after 36 holes at Augusta National.

The 47-year-old Floyd, who last won a tournament in 1986, the year he became the oldest player to win a US Open, stood at six-under-par 138 after a round that featured four birdies and an eagle at the par-58th hole.

In second place was another surprising veteran, Scott Hoch, who also posted a 68 — the low round of the day — and would have held a share of the lead except for a bogey at 18.

Hoch is trying to erase his nightmare memory from last year when he muffed a two-foot putt that would have won him the title that he lost to eventual champion Nick Faldo in a sudden-death playoff.

The first 18 holes of the 54th Masters belonged to the uninitiated as Masters rookie Mike Donald fired a 64, one off the course record, to lead by two shots over John Huston, also making his debut at Augusta.

But Donald unraveled from the start yesterday, staggering out of the gate with five bogeys in his first six holes, while Huston and Peter Jacobsen, who was third overnight after an opening 67, struggled to hold on.

Huston, whose birdie at number 2 put him at seven-under, finished with a 74 and stood



Norman (left) and Lyle had two bad rounds and failed to survive the cut

alone in third place at four-under 140.

Donald ended a miserable day with a triple bogey at 18 for an 82 and 146.

Round two belonged to the veterans and some semblance of order returned to the first major championship of the year.

Besides Floyd and Hoch, Jack

Nicklaus, appearing in his 32nd Masters, Masashi (Jumbo) Ozaki of Japan and Craig Stadler moved into contention on a day when hazy sunshine gave way to overcast skies and strong winds. Rain that threatened to mar the afternoon held off until the last few holes.

"I'm tickled pink about the way I've played," Floyd said.



"This brings back some old memories,"

Hoch went a long way toward erasing his unpleasant Masters memory.

"This is the easiest part about the past year, the playing," Hoch said. "Here I can do something about it. When people ask me about it (the missed putt) during

the past year all I could say was 'hey, I messed up.'"

Three shots behind Floyd was Ozaki, whose up-and-down round included four birdies and three bogeys.

Bunched at two-under-par 142, four shots off the pace, were Nicklaus, Stadler, Mike Hulbert, Bill Britton and Jacobsen, who suffered doubled bogeys on 13

and 16 after starting his round with 12 successive pars.

Another shot back was a group that included Faldo, Double US Open champion Curtis Strange and 1985 Masters champion Bernhard Langer of West Germany.

"It was a long, hard struggle," said Faldo, who shot a 72. "The wind was blowing stronger than yesterday. But I'm still right in there if I can get some putts to drop."

The 50-year-old Nicklaus, who won last week in his first outing on the "Senior" Tour, rebounded from a double bogey on 12 with three consecutive birdies and was eager for the next half of the tournament.

Forty-nine players survived the cut, which was set at 148. Among the most notable casualties were Australian Greg Norman and 1988 champion Sandy Lyle.

Norman, who finished within one shot of the winner in the last three Masters, added a 72 to his opening 78 to finish at 150 and missed his first Masters cut in 10 years at Augusta.

Lyle finished with a 74 for 151 and for the second day in a row was more a threat to the spectators than he was to par.

The Briton, who sent one spectator to hospital on Thursday with an errant drive, put another fan into hospital when he hooked a shot on the 2nd hole and struck a third onlooker with a wild approach shot.

Torrance two shots off pace

VALENCIA, Spain, April 7. (Reuters) British Ryder Cup golfer Sam Torrance moved menacingly — and erratically — towards his first tournament success in three years yesterday.

Torrance was dogged by inconsistency as he carried six birdies, an eagle and four bogeys in a second round 68 at the El Bosque Open which left him two shots adrift of Fijian leader Vijay Singh.

Singh fired a 69 to retain his one stroke lead on a nine-under-par total of 135, while Briton Paul Carrigill shot a similar score towards his first tournament success in three years yesterday.

Torrance, who last triumphed at the Italian Open in 1987, eagled the 490-yard 11th hut struggled over the closing holes.

"The wind suddenly got up and it made life very difficult towards the end," said Torrance, who hit a three-wood second shot on the 363-yard 18th.

There were no such problems for Australia's Mike Harwood. He hit a course record 66 to finish in a group on 140.

After securing the halfway lead, Singh, who is in only his second year on the European Tour, announced his plans to chase dollars on the American Circuit next season.

"I'll definitely try to play in the US next season, although it means going through three qualifying schools," he said.

"I haven't enjoyed playing on many of the courses in Europe this year. You have to steer it round — I like to hit it."

Brown takes lead in LPGA tournament

POWAY, Calif., April 7. (Reuters) Nancy Brown shot a two-under-par 69 yesterday for a 136 total and will take two-stroke lead over Missie McGee into the third round of the \$300,000 LPGA golf tournament.

McGee carded four birdies and a bogey for a three-under 68 and was alone in second place at four-under 138.

Betsy King, winner of last week's Dinah Shore Classic, posted a one-under 70 and was tied for third place with Kris Monaghan at 139.

Brown began the second day at four-under, one stroke behind overnight leader Lenore Rittenhouse, who stumbled in with a five-over 76 to fall six strokes behind the new leader.

Brown started badly, taking a bogey on the 155-year par-3 first hole. She reclaimed the stroke with a birdie on the fourth hole only to give it back again with a bogey on five.

Brown's game picked up on the back side when she sank a five-foot birdie putt on the par-5 10th hole. She finished her back nine in fine fashion with consecutive birdies on 17 and 18.

"I played well enough to perhaps have shot even lower," Brown said. "I had a lot of putts between 10 and 15 feet that I could have made for birdie that I missed."

"I was really happy with my attitude out there. After two bogeys on the front nine, I did not allow myself to get mad. I was rewarded with birdies on the back."

Clements ahead

HATTIESBURG, Ms., April 7. (Reuters) Lennie Clements shot a six-under-par 66 yesterday to move into the second round lead with a nine-under 131 at the \$300,000 Hattiesburg Classic golf tournament.

Clements recorded seven birdies and one bogey to move one stroke ahead of Gene Sauers at the midway point.

Sauers added a seven-under 65 to Thursday's 67 to take sole possession of second place.

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Greenidge apologises after clash with Small

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, April 7. (Reuters) West Indies opening batsman Gordon Greenidge has apologised to England paceman Gladstone Small following a row between the two men during a one-day cricket international on Tuesday.

Greenidge made the apology to Small and the England team management after he was reprimanded by the West Indies Cricket Board of Control (WICBC).

Trouble between the pair erupted after Greenidge was dismissed by Small during the final one-day match which West Indies won. Instead of heading back to the pavilion Greenidge walked straight into the cluster of England players celebrating his dismissal and heated words were exchanged.

After the match a further confrontation between Greenidge and Small took place at the presentation ceremony.

Several spectators, including Lord Sharpe, chairman of the sponsors, saw the incident.

"I saw the two players jostling," said Sharpe. "It was unbecomingly behaviour for two professional sportsmen in front of members of the public and was out of character with the spirit in which this series has been played."

WICBC secretary Steve Camacho said:

"The issue was investigated by the disciplinary committee. Greenidge has tendered an apology to the England team management and Small, which has been accepted, and the matter is closed."

England tour manager Peter Lush commented: "It is very unusual for a touring team to have to make a complaint about the behaviour of one of the home players."

Lamb leads England rally

Best slams 164 for W.Indies

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, April 7. (Reuters) Acting captain Allan Lamb played an innings of character and courage to rescue England after they looked likely to succumb to the West Indies pace machine on the second day of the fourth cricket Test yesterday.

Lamb arrived at the crease with England struggling at 46 for two in reply to West Indies' first innings 446. He finished unbeaten on 63 as the visitors

reached 155 for three and within 92 runs of avoiding the follow-on.

With England's other South African-born player Robin Smith, Lamb added 80 for the third wicket and kept alive his team's hopes of retaining their 1-0 lead in the five-match series.

He was given valuable support by Smith who made a dogged 17 not out in his 25 overs at the crease after England had lost their first three wickets for 75

runs. Lamb, elevated to the captaincy after Graham Gooch suffered broken bones in his hand in the third Test, fought his rear-guard battle after Carlisle Best scored a superb 164 to put West Indies in a seemingly unbeatable position.

England made a disastrous start when Wayne Larkins was out to his first ball in the opening over by fast bowler Ian Bishop. Trying to force a delivery which he could have left well alone Larkins was brilliantly caught one-handed by Richie Richardson who dived full length to his right at cover point.

Fellow opener Alec Stewart hit Bishop for four in the same over but was then dropped off by Curtly Ambrose when an edged cut just carried to first slip where Viv Richards got a finger to the ball before it went for four.

In the next over from Ambrose, Stewart was caught at second slip off a no-ball. His good luck continued as an inside edged off the same bowler just eluded wicketkeeper Jeff Dujon and also went for four.

Shortly after tea Roh Bailey aimed an extravagant drive and was bowled by Bishop for 17 but the 50 was posted in the following over.

England's willingness to go for their shots again proved expensive as Stewart, who had just hit Ezra Moseley for two fours,

drove at a full length ball wide of the off stump and edged a catch to first slip for 45.

He batted for 77 minutes and hit six fours in reaching his highest Test score in his third appearance.

Lamb and Smith were more circumspect in choosing which balls to hit on a pitch which had lost a lot of its pace. The 50 partnership was posted in 80 minutes from 19 overs, of which Smith contributed 13.

Lamb reached his 50 from 92 balls and at the close had hit seven boundaries in a highly responsible innings.

England had been hoping for a quick breakthrough when West Indies resumed at 311 for five, but the overnight pair of Best and Dujon kept them at bay until 15 minutes before lunch.

But then Dujon, attempting a cut, dragged a ball from seamer David Capel on to his stumps to be out for 31 to put West Indies on 395 for six.

Malcolm Marshall lasted only three overs and 10 minutes after lunch Best's 423-minute stay ended when he was caught behind off Gladstone Small.

It was the fifth catch of the innings for wicketkeeper Jack Russell. Best hit 19 fours from the 245 balls he faced.

Nasser Hussain broke a frustrating 11th wicket stand of 20 in 44 minutes when his direct hit from point caught Bishop yards

short and DeFreitas knocked out last man Moseley's off stump.

Small, finished with four for 109 while fast bowler Devon Malcolm followed up his 15 wickets in his previous two Tests with none for 142.

Scoreboard

WEST INDIES first innings (over-night 311-5)
G. Greenidge c Russell 41
D. DeFreitas 41
D. Haynes c Stewart b Small 0
T. Richardson c Russell b Small 45
C. Best c Russell b Small 164
V. Richards c Russell b Capel 70
G. Logia c Russell b Capel 31
J. Dujon b Capel 31
M. Marshall c Lamb b Small 4
C. Ambrose not out 20
I. Bishop run out 10
E. Moseley b DeFreitas 4
Extras (lb-8 nb-18) 26
Total 446
Fall of wickets: 1-82-69-3-108-4-227
5-281-6-305-7-406-8-411-9-431

Bowling: Malcolm 33-6-142-0, Small 35-5-109-4, DeFreitas 29-5-99-2, Capel 24-5-88-3.

ENGLAND first innings
A. Stewart c Richards b Moseley 45
W. Larkins c Richardson b Bishop 0
R. Bailey b Bishop 63
M. Lamb not out 17
R. Smith not out 17
Extras (b-2 w-1 nb-10) 13
Total (for three wickets) 155
Fall: 1-1-2-46-375

To bat: N. Hussain, D. Capel, R. Russell, P. DeFreitas, G. Small, D. Malcolm.

Bowling to date: Bishop 9-30-2, Ambrose 10-0-42-0, Moseley 10-0-50-1, Marshall 6-1-17-0, Richards 8-3-14-0.



Lamb gestures as he tries to settle down pace bowler Devon Malcolm. (Reuters wirephoto)

A's tipped to win title

NEW YORK, April 7. (Reuters) The Oakland Athletics, last year's World Series champions, again look the best team in American baseball as the 1990 season finally gets underway on Monday.

The A's are bidding for their third straight American League West title in what looks easily the strongest division.

Their offence is headed by power-hitting Jose Canseco and fleet-footed base stealer Rickey Henderson while the World Series' Most Valuable Player, Dave Stewart, leads the pitching lineup.

The Kansas City Royals and the California Angels, both strengthened by off-season acquisitions, could pose the chief threat to the A's.

The Royals became the first team ever to start the season with both Cy Young Award winners in Bret Saberhagen and new signing Mark Davis, who saved 44 games for San Diego last year.

Mark Langston has been grabbed from Montreal in the off-season free agent scramble to add further depth to the California Angels' pitching staff.

Pitching depth could be a significant factor this year. The shortened spring training season will adversely affect a number of starting pitchers who have had too little time to get their arms properly tuned.

For that reason alone the New York Mets, with six talented starters including two former Cy Young winners in Dwight Gooden and Frank Viola, should win the National League's East Division.

KPBL First Conference ends

THE KUWAIT PINOY Basketball League (KPBL) ended its First Conference Basketball Tournament in front of a capacity crowd at the Keifan Gym on Friday.

The tournament was won by KPBC, who beat EEI 117-113 in overtime. In the games for other positions, Overland Transport Co. beat Kuwait Regency Palace 90-80, Al Ghanim Freight & Travel edged Kuwait Danish Dairy 79-77 and Trico Int'l Door to Door outlasted KHC Bayan 104-1-0. A full report on the last day's play will appear in tomorrow's issue of the Arab Times.

The KPBL Awards Night for the First Conference will be held at the Mabuhay Restaurant tomorrow at 7.00 pm.

The Awards Night has been arranged as a tribute to all the KPBL participants and spectators who ensured the success of the inaugural KPBL event. A buffet-dinner will be held and everyone is invited. Dinner tickets are still available from all the members of the KPBL Secretariat and the KPBL Board of Governors.

The last day of the KPBL tournament was attended by the Philippine Ambassador to Kuwait Dr. Maung Mohammed Tamsano, Minister Counsellor & Consul General Dr. Dauday A. Tago, Finance Attache Thelma A. Saniel, Labour Attache Bert Marin besides other embassy staff members.

The second KPBL Conference has been scheduled tentatively for May 25-August 24. For further information call Tel 2403909.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Ban increased

LONDON, April 7. (Reuters) Brian Hillier, chairman of English Second Division Swindon, was yesterday banned from football for three years by the Football Association after they reconsidered their original punishment following a recent betting scandal. Hillier had originally been suspended for six months.

Formula One

ROME, April 7. (Reuters) Giancarlo Minardi, head of the Formula One motor racing team, hopes the unprecedented agreement to use Ferrari engines will lift his team to international success and prestige. Minardi and Ferrari announced yesterday that Minardi will use Ferrari 12-cylinder engines for the 1991 World Championship.

Stanley Cup

NEW YORK, April 7. (Reuters) Results of first-round National Hockey League Stanley Cup playoff games played yesterday: Chicago Black Hawks 5, Minnesota North Stars 3; (Best-of-seven series tied 1-1); St. Louis Blues 4, Toronto Maple Leafs 2; (Blues lead best-of-seven series 2-0); Calgary Flames 8, Los Angeles Kings 5; (Best-of-seven series tied 1-1); Edmonton Oilers 3, Winnipeg Jets 2; (Best-of-series tied 1-1).

All-Star games

TOKYO, April 7. (AP) Andre Tate of the University of Cincinnati scored 17 points and grabbed five rebounds, leading the East team to a 100-91 victory over the Midwest yesterday in the first game of a US All-Star college basketball tournament, the Japan Classic. In the day's second game, the West pulled away from a 42-42 tie at the end of the first half and defeated the South 102-88.

Sulayem faces stern Cyprus test

DUBAI: Middle East champion Mohammed bin Sulayem faces a stern test when he makes his first European appearance of the year in the International Tour of Cyprus Rally later this month.

Sulayem takes his Winston Toyota Celica GT-4 into the tough 700-km event knowing that a big gathering of experienced competitors will be eager to take on the Arab world's No. 1 driver.

The UAE star's stature is fully recognised on the Mediterranean holiday island where all the leading Cypriot competitors and a number of other foreign challengers will be in action on April 28 and 29.

Everyone in Cyprus who knows anything about rallying knows all about Mohammed bin Sulayem," said a spokesman for the rally organisers. "We are very pleased that his team has entered and he will be given a warm welcome here. But he can expect a



Sulayem (right) and Morgan: heading for Cyprus

difficult two days. He has a great reputation, and his presence here will make all the other leading drivers even more determined to win."

Sulayem, who will be partnered by Irish co-driver Ronan

Morgan, said: "Each rally I enter in Europe adds to my education as a driver and I love the challenge of new events and different conditions."

There will be a lot of very experienced drivers taking part

in Cyprus, but I have a great team behind me and my car is getting better all the time."

In fact, the Toyota Celica GT-4 achieved its first success on the island, with former world champion Bjorn Waldegard taking it to victory two years ago in the Cyprus International Rally.

Sulayem finished fifth in that event in 1984, the year in which he signed his first contract with Toyota. Since then he has recorded 17 international victories, the last of which in Qatar in February made him the most successful Arab driver ever and gave him an immediate lead in the 1990 FISA Middle East series.

In Cyprus, Sulayem will have to prove his adaptability. Instead of the flat-out desert trails which are a feature of all Middle East rallies, he will be confronted by a twisting gravel route demanding intense concentration.

Lawson injured in practice crash

MONTEREY, Calif., April 7. (Reuters) Four-time world champion Eddie Lawson suffered a broken heel yesterday when he crashed during the second timed practice for tomorrow's US Grand Prix motorcycle race at Laguna Seca Raceway.

The initial report from track medical personnel was that the American motorcycle star appeared to have broken both his legs. He was taken to a nearby hospital and X-rays revealed that Lawson fractured his right heel and aggravated a left ankle fracture suffered in a crash in Japan last month.

Lawson, who had been looking forward to racing in his home state, was conscious and talking when taken from the track to community hospital of the Monterey peninsula, said Dr. Dan Delgado, who treated the fallen rider at the scene.

A spokesman for Lawson's Yamaha team said the reigning world champion was expected to be out of action at least one month and will likely miss the Spanish Grand Prix in addition to tomorrow's race. The crash occurred in the afternoon practice,

when Lawson's Yamaha appeared to lose its brakes entering turn 2 of the 2.196-mile (2.534-km) course where the motorcycles are coming off the fastest part of the track into a hairpin.

Lawson, who switched from Honda to the Yamaha team managed by retired world champion Kenny Roberts this season, initially fractured the left ankle in a crash early in the season's first race last month in Suzuka, Japan.

Honda rider Wayne Gardner of Australia was fastest in yesterday's timed practice with a lap of one minute 26.758 seconds at an average speed of 91.122 mph (146.642 kph) recorded during the morning session.

American Suzuki rider Kevin Schwantz was second fastest in 1:26.805 set during the morning session and his compatriot Wayne Rainey, Lawson's Yamaha team mate who won the season opener in Japan, posted the day's third quickest time of 1:27.028 in the crash-marred afternoon session.

CHESS

Dumlao, Hussain triumph

TOURNAMENT favourite Niel Dumlao and unassuming Hussain Ahmad emerged champions of their respective group after a series of surprises in the just concluded First Rated Tournament organised by the Filipino Chess Club in Kuwait (Filcheck).

The final and deciding matches on the 7-round Swiss system tournament which were held on Friday at the New Kabayan Restaurant saw erstwhile leaders of both groups going down in defeat. A number of players finished with an identical final score which was broken by the Buchholz score procedure. Buchholz score is the aggregate of the opponents' final scores.

In group A, Niel drew with Rene Mostrales in 28 moves of a French defense while Inggy Vendola suffered his second loss in the hands of Danny Calasin in 25 moves of a Ruy Lopez variation. Niel made a total of 5 1/2 points (5 wins, 1 loss and 1 draw) to secure first place. Inggy and Danny were tied for second with 5 points (5 wins and 2 losses) but the former made better in the tiebreak to capture the 1st runner-up honour while Danny took the 2nd runner-up slot.

Edwin Borigas, who nosed out Rene in a tie-break with a mere half point, took the 3rd runner-up position. Edwin lost his chance to win the championship when he blundered in his 38th move against Sammy Aureliano. Sammy won the game from move 14.

In an unexpected turn of events, last week's solo leader Gil Opiana Jr. of Group B lost to Bernard de los Reyes in 39 moves of a queen-pawn opening to stay second behind Hussain Ahmad who defeated Mel Espinosa in 42 moves of a queen's gambit. Hussain and Gil had 6 points each in the final tally (6 wins and 1 loss) but Hussain outperformed the latter in the tie-break procedure.

Giant-killer Bernard de los Reyes captured the third place with 5 points while newcomer Robert Vargas secured fourth place with 4 1/2 points. Robert drew his game against Dads Pates in 38 moves of a Sicilian defense.

The champion and the three runners-up of both groups will each receive a trophy donated by Trico (No-Kilo) International and valuable gift items from Seven-Up Bottling Company and Adawlah Universal Electronics, distributor of Kasparov chess computers.

Awarding ceremonies will be held as scheduled on Thursday, April 12, during the "Black and White Night" reception at the Trico Restaurant. The club's first set of officers, expected to grace the affair are the officials of the Philippine embassy, members and officers of the Kuwait Chess Federation, tournament sponsors and prominent leaders of the Filipino community.

Meanwhile, Filcheck president Edward Racaza has announced that the final rehearsal for the programme will be held on Monday, April 8, 1990 at 6:00 pm at Kabayan Restaurant. All participants are requested to come.

Final standings

Group B: 1. Hussain Ahmad 6 points, 2. Gil Opiana Jr. 6, 3. Bernard de los Reyes 5, 4. Robert Vargas 4.5, 5. Dads Pates 4, 6. Fred Marsigan 4, 7. Mel Espinosa 4, 8. Rolly Mercado 3.5, 9. Jun Emutan 3.5, 10. Diony Bartolome 3, 11. Silver Salvador 3, 12. Stanley Sawit 2.5, 13. Jun Alejandro 2.5, 14. Bamra Bucay 1.

Group A: 1. Niel Dumlao 5.5 points, 2. Inggy Vendola 5, 3. Danny Calasin 5, 4. Edwin Borigas 4.5, 5. Rene Mostrales 4.5, 6. Sammy Aureliano 4, 7. Rading Moje 4, 8. Rolly Bado 4, 9. Alf Maca-ayan 3, 10. Theony Montano 3, 11. Ray Mangarong 3, 12. Arnel Matutino 3, 13. Arjo Martinez 2.5, 14. Jess Berquen 2.

Stadium to be blessed

VATICAN CITY, April 7. (AP) Rome's Olympic stadium, rebuilt for the final of soccer's World Cup, will get a blessing from a former papal confessor, Pope John Paul II.

John Paul has accepted an invitation from the Italian Olympic committee to visit the stadium on May 31 and bless the remodeled arena, the Vatican has announced.

Host team Italy will play its first game there June 9 against Austria and the stadium will be the site of the final of the month-long competition.

John Paul, an avid sportsman in his native Poland, is said by his biographers to have been an enthusiastic goalie as a teen-ager in Wadowice.

He visited the stadium, which was built for the 1960s summer Olympics, for a holy year sports celebration in 1984.

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